

Winter 2017

The OPTIMIST

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JULY 6-8, 2017



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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 Plan your trip now to the 99th Annual Optimist International Convention. For more information about convention. see pages 16-17.

GREETINGS

Greetings to My Fellow Optimists, Families and Friends,

I hope that you have had a most joyous, happy, blessed, and wonderful Holiday Season! Now we look at 2017 with new expectations, new hopes, new joys, along with our standby Optimist hopes, expectations and joys. Together We Can make a real difference: help more of our youth, and better serve our communities.

We are in the "Year of the Honor Club." What does or should this mean to us as Optimists? The concept of Honor Club has been long established in Optimist International. Over the years, we have somewhat strayed from the real meaning and history of Honor Club. So, what does or should Honor Club mean to all of us as Optimists?

The Honor Club concept is a time tested proven way for an Optimist Club to be successful. And what really is a successful Optimist Club? Allow me to share my thoughts on what being a successful Optimist Club is: serving more of our youth who need us more than ever before and finding new ways to serve our communities that have many unmet needs.

Honor Club also means that we are taking care of our Clubs, too. We need fun and exciting meetings where our Members can grow personally by giving, sharing, and caring with their fellow Members. We are honoring those, Member or not, who have given to our great cause. Of course, we have to take care of the paperwork, the bills, and the administrative "stuff." We also must remember that we are part of a bigger group of Optimists, beyond our own Club, our District. We have an obligation to be an active part of our District by sharing, learning and growing with our fellow Clubs.



PRESIDENT JIM KONDRASUK

Last, and certainly not least, we must ensure that our Clubs will survive into the future. There are and will be more youth that need what we offer. To make sure our Clubs can survive, we do need to add new Members every year. With new Members comes new ideas and new energy. I challenge each of you to find and recruit your successor! If you do that, you will help ensure our ability to serve our youth into the future. And that my fellow Optimists is what we are all about.

The Year of the Honor Club - Together We Can! Together We Will!



Reel OPTIMISM

VIDEO CONTEST

WIN A CLUB GRANT IN THE 2017 REEL OPTIMISM VIDEO CONTEST

The fifth annual Reel Optimism video contest will allow adult Clubs, youth (Junior Optimist) Clubs and the general public to submit videos with the chance to win a \$750 Club Grant, or for the general public, \$500 towards a charity or local group. Using the creativity of Club Members, partners and community resources, Clubs are asked to create a short video that illustrates the simple topic: "Optimism."

Five separate categories will be offered in 2017:

- "Optimists in Action – Adult" – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually illustrates the topic of Optimism. Submissions by adult Clubs only.
- "Optimists in Action – Youth" – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually illustrates the topic of Optimism. Submissions by Junior Optimist Clubs only.
- "Make Optimism Go Viral – Adult" – a video (45 seconds or less) that visually illustrates the topic of Optimism in a humorous way. Submissions by adult Clubs only.
- "Make Optimism Go Viral – Youth" – a video (45 seconds or less) that visually illustrates the topic of Optimism in a humorous way. Submissions by Junior Optimist Clubs only.
- "Optimism – Public" – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually illustrates the topic of Optimism. Submissions in this category will be accepted from community groups, other nonprofits and individuals.

Club grants will be awarded in each of the categories with funding courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. Organizations or individuals winning the "Optimism – Public" grant must designate a recognized youth charity in their community to receive the grant. This grant will be issued to the designated charity in the contest winner's name.

2017 Contest Schedule

- **FEBRUARY 17-APRIL 14:** Members, Clubs and the general public submit videos following the submission guidelines.
- **MAY 12:** Finalists in each category will be announced. Voting open to the public.
- **MAY 31:** Public voting ends.
- **JUNE 2:** The videos receiving the most votes in each category will be announced. All Reel Optimism video submissions will be shown at the 2017 Optimist International Convention in Albuquerque. Winning Clubs and individuals will be invited on stage to receive their awards.

Entries will be judged and nominated as finalists based on:

- Club, organization or group name included in video
- Explanation and utilization of theme
- Use of visuals and effects
- Creativity
- Clear storyline and flow
- Use of time
- Video quality

MORE DETAILS: OPTIMIST.ORG/REEOPTIMISM

NEWS &

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 August 1 and November 30:

LEVEL VII

Ben Cuttino	PSE
Emily Finch	SWONT
Kathy Forster	GATE
Elisabeth Palmer-Mills	PSE
Winnie Steinweg	STX
Marvin Wastell	NE

LEVEL X

Gregory Chase	CALSO
Joe Madden	OH
Jim Parrotte	CALSO
Scott Pinheiro	AC
Myron Rheaume	OH
William Stone	MDSO
Jim Walker	CALSO



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER Candidates Sought

Candidates for the offices of Optimist International President-Elect, International Vice President-Elect and International Board Member for 2017-18 are now being sought. Clubs will elect Optimists to these positions during the online voting session June 1 through June 30.

Self-nominations for these positions must be received in the International Office no later than April 1, 2017. The International Candidate Qualifications Committee will also announce its nominations for these positions by March 1. If you want to recommend someone for an International office to the Candidate Qualifications committee, please fill out the evaluation/recommendation form that can be found at optimist.org.

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	24
Matty Mcgarvey	Bennie-Johnnie Optimist Club, MN	22
Abby Riegelman	Bennie-Johnnie Optimist Club, MN	21
Matthew Janes	Optimist Club of Fort Worth, TX	13
Shannon Meinholz	U.W.-Whitewater Student Optimist Club, WI	9
David Stone	Optimist Club of Stanley, NC	8
Brentley Orr	Optimist Club of Norman, OK	8
Donna Polston	Optimist Club of Mineral Wells, TX	6
Victor Louie	East/West Optimist Club of Alhambra, CA	6

CLUB ELECTION Time is Coming Up

All Optimist Clubs should be make preparations for electing new officers for the 2017-18 administrative year. Now is the time to seek out qualified and interested Club Members for a leadership position.

After your election is complete, be sure to submit the Club Officer Elect Report (COER) to Optimist International so that your incoming Club President can receive important communications. The deadline for submitting the COER is May 20.

SOCIAL, SERVICE AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP

Optimists are known for bringing out the best in children, the best in their communities and the best in themselves. Now, your Club can celebrate the young individuals in your community to help your Club be the best that it can be!

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. This concept would help younger individuals with networking skills and social activity with the availability of volunteering for specific projects or targeted activities.

Use a Social, Service and Young Professionals Group for your Club to:

- Attract Members who are unable or unwilling to participate in your current Club meetings and projects.
- Attract younger Members and professionals with new ideas and unique skill sets.
- Gain more volunteers for service projects your Club currently hosts.
- Expand your Club's reach in your community.
- Energize current Members who may be looking for different opportunities within the Club.
- **Have fun!**



Rules & Regulations:

- Social, Service and Young Professionals Group must have a minimum of 15 individuals who have not been Optimist Members or Friends in the past four months.
- Club, Zone and District will be awarded new Club building credit.
- There is no charter fee for the newly formed group. Members pay regular dues.
- Friends of Optimist and 30 Under 30 Members may count towards the 15 Member requirement.
- Club will receive Distinguished Status if it meets all other criteria.
- Up to two Builders of Excellence will be awarded for the newly formed group.
- The newly formed group will receive a Creed banner.
- A Club may only "charter" one Social, Service and Young Professionals Group per Optimist year.

Contact the Membership Department for more information: 800-500-8130 ext. 226 • membership@optimist.org



SOCIAL, SERVICE AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP: LAKE LOTAWANA "HAPPY HOUR" OPTIMIST CLUB

The Lake Lotawana Optimist Club was Chartered 38 years ago in 1978. Its current membership is over 100 adult Members. The Lake Lotawana Optimist Club created a social Club to attract younger Members two years ago. The Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club was featured in The Optimist Summer 2015 issue. The Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club has had great success attracting Members and planning successful new projects for the community. The Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club has started new annual fundraisers raising over \$5,000 dollars/year to benefit the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club and is recruiting new, enthusiastic Optimists.

Mallory Quesenberry, Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club President, kindly answered a few questions about what has worked for her Club, what her Club has accomplished, and what she recommends for Clubs starting a Social, Service and Young Professionals Group. See below tips for starting a Social, Service and Young Professionals Group in your existing Club:

1. START WITH A FUN RECRUITING EVENT

"One of the Past Presidents, Cindy Morehead, had a goal to recruit younger Optimists and held a wine tasting event at a local winery. During this meeting, targeted to younger guests, she discussed in detail the role of Optimists in our community. Many new people became Members that night and I volunteered to be the President of the younger generation "Happy Hour" Optimist Club. From this meeting forward, we held our own meetings once a month and have recruited our friends, neighbors, business associates, etc. Our group has been full of trial and error, but we have a strong backbone of committed Members who will continue to serve the Optimist Club for years and years to come."

2. ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The Lake Lotawana Optimist Club communicates to their Members via email and Evite for meetings. The Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club utilizes a private Facebook group page as our number one mode of communication. We also use email campaigns for event reminders. We have several Members who attend both meetings. A Member from the Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club will attend board meetings for the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club to give updates, discuss budget, etc. Also, we have several combined meetings throughout the year such as a bowling night, Christmas party and softball games."

3. PROVIDE SUPPORT

"The Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club has separate events from the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club, but we provide support for each other on all events. The Lake Lotawana Optimist Club offers volunteers, donations, etc. for our events and vice versa. However, the Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club focuses on the younger families of the community by offering new events and fundraisers such as Memorial Cancer Walk, Carnival on the Lake, golf tournaments, turtles races, etc."

4. MAKE MEETINGS EXCITING, BUT PRODUCTIVE

"The Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club does our very best to run quick, productive and fun meetings in different places throughout the city. We have unique aspects to our meetings that provide more to the meeting than just business. For example, "brag bucks" in which Members donate a dollar to our petty cash to say something positive about their life or someone else, Member of the month, referral binder, canned good drawing and more."

5. REMAIN A UNITED CLUB

"We are not interested in becoming separate groups in the community. We feel that our teamwork, support and common values make us a strong Optimist Club providing events for children of all ages and volunteer opportunities for all generations."

To learn more about the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club and Lake Lotawana "Happy Hour" Optimist Club, "Like" the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club on Facebook!

IT'S THE "WHY?"

Submitted by: Rick Matkin, Pacific Northwest District Governor & Lynn Viner, Pacific Northwest District Leadership Development Chair

Undoubtedly all of us have seen a Club that appears more successful. They have more Members, they keep more Members, and they recruit more successfully. We also see other individual Optimists that just appear to be better recruiters. We wonder and frequently pass it off as they are more gregarious, easy going or extroverted. So, what is the difference?

We have attended meetings and seminars that stress the need to practice our "elevator speech." We recognize we may be offered an opportunity to talk with a prospective member or a stranger who expresses interest in one of our projects. These opportunities tend to be very brief, thus resulting in the utilization of what we have come to refer to as the "elevator speech." Is this the answer?

A typical inquiry by an interested person tends to start with, "What do Optimists do?" That is the kick off of your elevator speech opportunity. You tell that person about your community projects and possibly some facts about how it fits into your own community. That input on your part tends to prompt the question, "How do you do all of that?" That launches you into a mention of all of the successful fundraisers you may do or describe your benefactors and your appreciation of their involvement. This tends to be your opportunity to slip in the fact you could do much more if this person would be willing to join in with you or your local Club and strengthen your involvement in the community. Why is this method not more successful than it is?

A person who may ask you about an Optimist project is more often than not a caring individual. They care for their community. They care for the opportunities their child may be offered. Usually the inquiry comes during a time when you are involved in a project and are witnessed by the person making the inquiry. A person who asks at this time is a caring person. Caring is done from the heart of an individual. So, here is the difference.

When we answer the inquiry about the "What?" and the "How?" we are satisfying the individual's needs for their head.

It is just like you answered a business question. Things that are good for business are handled differently in the brain than are those believed to belong in the heart. A long term Optimist is a person who spends more time operating from the heart than from the brain. These are the people that make good Optimists and stay with your organization a number of years.

People who join for reasons of the head or brain tend to see how Optimists may benefit their business, their contacts in the community, or their visibility to others. These are all good reasons, but tend not to be the reasons a person remains productive and invested in your Club activities.

The question people who look for details about Optimist International seldom ask is the "Why?" In a way to personalize your elevator speech, it is best if you make it personal from you. You are inviting them to be with you, so make it personal. That is where the "Why?" comes in. I was asked, "Why are you an Optimist?" My response is, "I love doing projects for the kids in my community with all of my best friends."

After looking back at my life in my community over the past eighteen years, I recognized that most of my best friends are Optimists. Why do many of us drive sometimes across two states and occasionally a province to visit with other Members at a conference? Some of them are my best friends and I can be assured when I attend a conference, I am spending time with another person who cares for their community as much as I do mine.

You can make a connection with an individual more completely if in addition to answering the "What?" and the "How?" you also include the "Why?" You already know how to take care of the business or the head and brain questions. There are those people who join Optimists for reasons of the head, but the ones who stay with your Club do so for reasons of the heart.

So, continue to practice your elevator speech, but in your own words plan on making it a more personal invitation by telling them "Why?" **you are an Optimist.**



NEW CLUB GOES TO WORK FOR THE KIDS

Submitted by: John Kessler, Bettendorf Optimist Club, Iowa District

The Bettendorf Optimist Club is only a few months old and has embarked on an energetic project for Christmas joy. Over 450 handmade, wooden toys were given to kids in the community.

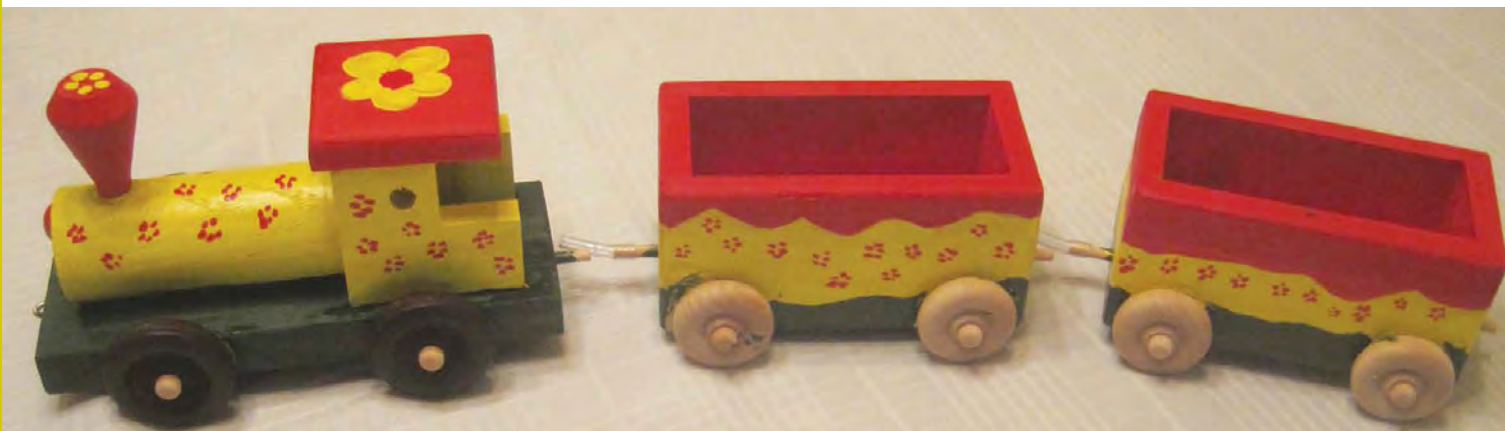
The toys were made by Tender Loving Care Toys in Minnesota. Tender Loving Care Toys is supported by nearly 100 local organizations. Sewing circles make doll clothes. Lumber companies provide wood. Tender Loving Care Toys even works with people sentenced to community service, and inmates in St. Cloud, Faribault and Shakopee to finish some of the toys. The founder of Tender Loving Care Toys is Mel Hartman and Bettendorf Optimist Club extended him a Friend of Optimist membership.

The toys were donated by Tender Loving Care Toys. Rob Gagnon of the Bettendorf Optimist Club drove to Minnesota to pick up the toys. The Bettendorf Optimist Club has also donated \$400 to Tender Loving Care.

The Bettendorf Optimist Club and Gagnon then set out to find a way to get the toys to kids in the community for Christmas. The majority of distribution was accomplished by the Bettendorf Police and Fire Departments.

Most of the toys were unfinished, so another project task was painting and clear coating the toys. Pleasant Valley high school students volunteered to paint 20 trains. Bettendorf Optimist Club Members sprayed toys in their garage. There was also the logistics of storing the toys. Several Bettendorf Optimist Club Members stepped up and found garage space.

This project brings to mind a principle from the Optimist Creed "To think only the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best." The project was accomplished by the teamwork of Bettendorf Optimist Club Members, student volunteers, and community police and fire departments. The project was a great start for the Bettendorf Optimist Club!





RÉJEAN PELLETIER

Réjean Pelletier has been an Optimist Member for nearly 33 years. He is a former regional director of an Air Cadets League squadron. He demonstrates an unending pride and passion in his participation in youth projects. His contribution, dedication and involvement as a volunteer were recently recognized by the Canadian Governor General. Pelletier, a Member of the Anjou Optimist Club in Montréal, has received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers.



This honorary distinction recognizes Canadians who have made significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad. Candidates must have demonstrated an exemplary commitment through their dedicated volunteerism. A committee receives and carefully researches and reviews each nomination, recommendations are then made to the governor general.

It all started in May of 1984 when a friend invited Pelletier to become a Member and help with one of the local Club's activities. Passionate about the game of chess, he didn't hesitate to take advantage of signing up as an Optimist Member and setting up a chess tournament in the schools of his area. Since then, he has had the opportunity to serve in nearly all the Optimist leadership roles, except International President!

"It is imperative that Optimist Members create close ties with school boards and teachers within the schools as this is where our clientele is found. We have so many opportunities to offer, as well as activities which allow them to make new friends, develop new interests, increase personal growth, and that is what our youth are waiting for!" he states with conviction.

Pelletier wishes that more and more youth can benefit from our wonderful movement and especially that Optimists can continue to have close ties with their local schools because they are at the forefront for serving our youth.



OPTIMIST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Optimist International is in the process of selecting individuals to be invited to participate in its fifth Leadership Academy class. Candidates selected will be invited to attend a one-day training program to share their leadership knowledge and participate in an advanced leadership program held on Sunday, July 9 immediately following the International Convention in Albuquerque. As a member of the Leadership Academy,

individuals are being recognized for their exceptional leadership skills and as future leaders of the Optimist International organization. There are no other commitments or obligations. If you are one of "the best of the best," or know someone who is, please make a recommendation. **Nominations are due by February 15** and can be sent to the Leadership Development Committee at leadership@optimist.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM!



For years the Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) program has offered Optimists the opportunity for personal growth through their Optimist activities. Studies have shown that many people are seeking professional growth opportunities to help them in their professional careers, and employers are looking for low cost opportunities for professional development of their employees.

Several years ago, the Optimist International Leadership Development Committee began the process of revising and updating the PGI program to include professional tracks like project planning and marketing. In the end, it was decided to create a whole separate program called the Professional Development Program (PDP) and leave the PGI in place for those who wish to continue in that program.

The Professional Development Program will enable people to grow and develop skills as individuals, career professionals, and Optimists. The program launched on October 1, 2016. The program is available at optimist.org.

THERE ARE FIVE TRACKS TO THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THEY ARE:

- Project Management
- Marketing
- Continuous Improvement
- Organizational Knowledge & Culture
- Communication Skills

Completion of the ten levels of the Professional Development Program will be recognized with a Certificate of Completion of the Optimist International Professional Development Program.

For those who would like to continue past the tenth level of Professional Development Program there are three advanced levels with the same five tracks. Each advanced level must be completed in a separate twelve-month period. Each level, Bronze, Silver and Gold will be recognized with a pin of the same color.

Continue to check optimist.org for updated resources such as tracking forms, presentations and additional information.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

In an effort to recognize the achievements of the District Leadership Development Chairs that go above and beyond to ensure the success of their District during their year of service and develop the District's future leaders for years to come, Optimist International will again grant a Distinguished District Leadership Development Chair Award.

TO QUALIFY FOR THIS AWARD, THE CHAIR MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- Work with the Governor to prepare and circulate District Conference agendas at least one month prior to the meeting and to promote the meeting and provide training at all meetings.
- Have a minimum of 50% of Club Presidents in the District attend Club President Training at a District meeting, a President's Midyear Planning Conference, or the Optimist International Convention.
- Personally meet with all New Clubs formed in the District and have training for the current and future leaders within 30 days of formation.
- Submit a minimum of 75% of Club Officer-Elect Reports to Optimist International by May 20.
- Provide three Skills Development modules in a face-to-face setting with a qualified presenter with at least one being done at a quarterly meeting. (Use of Certified Club, District or International trainers is encouraged)
- Have a minimum of 20% of Clubs in the District have at least three Members advance two levels in PGI or the Professional Development Program (PDP).

These requirements must be submitted, along with substantiating documentation, to the 2016-17 District Leadership Development Chair Dropbox folder by October 5, 2017. The top three Chairs will be determined by taking the top percentages from requirements two, four and six.

THE TOP THREE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS FOLLOWS:

- 3rd place will receive a paid convention registration
- 2nd place will receive a paid convention registration and one-night hotel stay at convention
- 1st place will receive a paid convention registration, one-night hotel stay at convention and travel for one person to the convention

CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NEW CLUB BUILDING

Every Optimist has looked at a map of Clubs within their District at one time or another and wondered, “Why are there no Optimist Clubs there?” Or looked at a metropolitan area with a significant population, yet Optimists have little or no representation among the mass population living there. There are several factors in regard to these scenarios which over the years has inhibited Optimists from Maine to Southern California and South Florida to Alaska from expanding the philosophy of Optimist International.

There are geographic areas of our Districts that are not easily reached by an hour or two drive one way. Distance from existing Clubs becomes an impediment for going forward. The time involved for a long distance development project and the corresponding expense can also produce a hurdle that is difficult to overcome. There is also the size of the metropolitan area which can make new Club development a daunting task that produces the question of “Where do I begin?”

Many of these and other roadblocks of chartering an Optimist Club in an underserved area can be overcome with a cluster development initiative. HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:

1 The District assembles teams of two to four people to work in a community. It is important that each team have at least one experienced new Club developer to mentor those with less experience.

2 Two to three teams are selected for two to three projects. These projects or sites are within a half hour to an hour’s drive of each other.

3 A 90-day window is established for a firm start date for each project and a firm ending date. Without a deadline, it is easy to put off a project. This also will help the volunteers working on a project know it won’t drag on for months.

4 A 90-day window is established for a firm start date for each project and a firm ending date. Without a deadline, it is easy to put off a project. This also will help the volunteers working on a project know it won’t drag on for months.

5 Once the cluster is complete, the new Clubs can help support each other. The idea of two or three new Clubs in a metropolitan area also will generate a new level of excitement and service.

2006-07 Iowa District Governor Craig Kelly was fond of saying, “There is help available.” This is the case with the Cluster Development Initiative. The Members of the New Club Building Committee are available to come to your area and help with a project. There is guidance available from the staff at Optimist International. There may also be opportunities for a staff member to come to your District and help move a cluster development initiative toward completion.

Contact Optimist International at newclub@optimist.org for more information or assistance for a new Club cluster development initiative in your District.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Committee Webinars

The Leadership Development Committee plans to host a webinar each quarter for the 2016-17 Optimist year. These webinars may be most helpful to Club Officers, but any Member can sign up to attend the webinar! Continue to check the Leadership Hotlines, social media and the optimist.org website for instructions to sign up for the webinars.

Resources - Wednesday, March 15 @ 7PM (CST)

Presented by: Teri Davis & Claire Labreche

Optimist International wants your year as a Club Officer to run as efficient and smooth as possible. A number of resources are available to help you have a fantastic year! Resources include other leaders (Lt. Governors, District Chairs, etc.), optimist.org and optimistleaders.org sites, and Optimist International staff. To learn about these resources, join the “Resources” webinar!

Structure of Optimist International - Tuesday, May 23 @ 7PM (CST)

Presented by: Ken Garner & Robert Doyle

Do you know the structure of Optimist International? In the Optimist International structure, the Club is on top. In the “Structure of Optimist International” webinar, you will learn how the structure works and how the only Members Optimist International has is its Clubs.



2016-17 Webinars available at optimist.org: Honor Club

Presented by: Jan Oord Graves & Pauline Langelier

Does your Club need new Members, new leaders, new ideas, and fresh energy? Is your Club thriving and growing? Are your plans working? The Honor Club Program can help! This webinar explains the eight steps to Honor Club, which are new this year, and how these steps can rejuvenate your Club. Using the Honor Club Program, a healthy and stable Club for you and your Members is within your reach!

Professional Development Program

Presented by: Mark Weinsoff & André Therrien

On October 1, 2016, the Professional Development Program began! The “Professional Development Program” webinar discusses the importance of using the program for self-development and explain the program requirements. Learn how to reach your full potential to better your life and the lives of others.

For more information about the webinars or if you have any questions, contact the Leadership Development Department at leadership@optimist.org.

TOGETHER WE CAN IN ALBUQUERQUE!

JULY 6-8, 2017 | ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER



LEARN • NETWORK • COLLABORATE • EXPLORE • TRAIN • EXHIBITS • FELLOWSHIP • FUN

START PLANNING NOW - RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FOR CONVENTION!

The convention events will take place at the Albuquerque Convention Center. There are three hotels to choose from and all are within walking distance of the Albuquerque Convention Center: Hyatt Regency; Double Tree and Andaluz.

To book your reservation and for more information, go to the housing section of the convention page at optimist.org/convention. As long as there are sleeping rooms available, the deadline to make your reservation is June 15, 2017. The sleeping room rates start at \$129 per night US plus taxes & fees.

***If traveling from outside of the United States, you may need a passport, be sure to check the expiration date or get one ordered right away.*

TOP 5 REASONS to Attend the 2017 Convention

1 Training!

This is an opportunity for District and Club Officers to attend leadership seminars, which are all included in the cost of registration. Workshops will be conducted on a variety of topics to educate you on many areas of interest within the organization and provide the chance for personal development.

"I attend the workshops to increase my skill level and confidence in my ability to lead."

- Laurel Schirmer, Optimist Club of Sheboygan, Wisconsin

2 Optimist Camaraderie!

This year's International Convention will offer a great opportunity to network and meet hundreds of dear friends who all share the same mission: *"By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves."*

3 Location!

The three-day conference schedule allows time to come early or stay after to experience the excitement of the host city.

4 Prepare Club Officers!

Club officers-elect benefit by learning how to prepare budgets, appoint committees and file reports on time. Learn more about the little things that will help make the year a successful one for your Club or District.

5 Expand your Horizons!

Expand your Horizons! Refresh your Optimist supplies and learn new fundraising and project ideas! This will give you the chance to brainstorm and practice teamwork with your fellow Optimists. You are sure to hear a wide variety of new and unique ideas to share with your Club.



REGISTRATION

You can register for the convention online or download the form at optimist.org/convention. Save money by registering before the May 1 "early-bird" deadline. All other pre-registrations must be postmarked or faxed no later than May 31 and received at the International Office by June 9 to ensure proper processing.

Continue to check the convention page for updates at optimist.org/convention and if you have any questions or need assistance, contact us at convention@optimist.org or 314-881-1305.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 & 5 AND SUNDAY, JULY 9

A VARIETY OF OPTIONAL TOURS WILL BE OFFERED.

TUESDAY, JULY 4

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND GOVERNOR-ELECT TRAINING
DISTRICT TRAINER CLASS
ENCHANTED EVENING RECEPTION (Scholarship Fundraising Gala Event with silent auction)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

CLUB TRAINER CLASS
US DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING
REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS
HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THURSDAY, JULY 6

REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS
HOUSE OF OPTIMISM EXHIBIT HALL - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FIRST TIMERS ORIENTATION
VICE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR TRAINING
WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE - FEATURING OPTIMIST AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS
DISTRICT CHAIRS AND CLUB LEADERS TRAINING
WILLIAM H HARRISONS SOCIETY RECOGNITION DINNER
OPENING CEREMONIES

FRIDAY, JULY 7

CLUB PRESIDENT-ELECT & LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS-ELECT BREAKFAST
HOUSE OF OPTIMISM
1ST BUSINESS SESSION
WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE - FEATURING OPTIMIST AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON - AMAZING ALBUQUERQUE
WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE - FEATURING OPTIMIST AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS
TOWN HALL MEETING
FOUNDATIONS PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBER RECEPTION (by invitation)
FIESTA ON THE PLAZA

SATURDAY, JULY 8

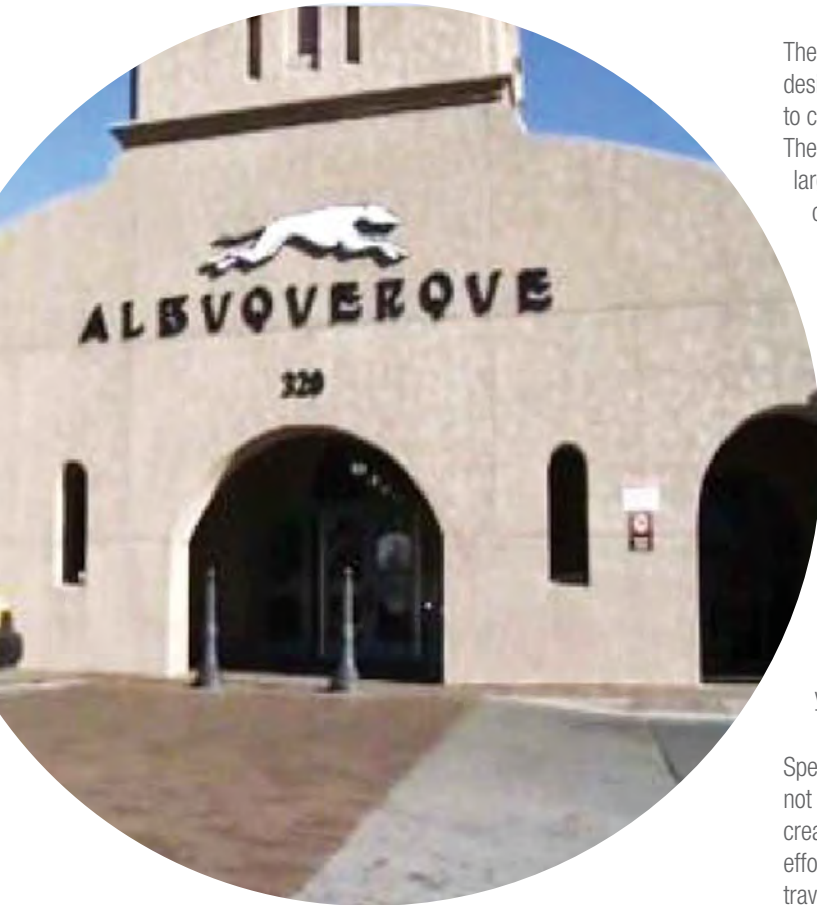
OLD TIMERS'/FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
HOUSE OF OPTIMISM - TIP TALKS
WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE - FEATURING OPTIMIST AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS
2ND/CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION
PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, BANQUET AND BALL - UP - UP - AND AWAY!

YOUTH PROGRAM

Don't leave the little ones at home! Optimist International Host Area Committee Members are making plans for great things to happen for your children and grandchildren during the convention in Albuquerque.



MEET THE OPTIMIST CLUBS **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE!**



The camp is staffed by college-age men and women chosen for their desire to be positive role models. The camp provides a counselor to camper ratio of 1:4. A registered nurse is on site 24 hours a day. The camp provides three hot meals a day. Campers engage in a large variety of activities, including: archery, drama, arts and crafts, climbing, hiking, fishing, air riflery, high ropes, sports, overnight campouts, and cooking. The campers have a daily opportunity to relax, socialize, share a snack, and buy a souvenir at the camp store.

The Club also hosts a Christmas Travel Depot Program. As most people prepare to give and receive gifts, and fill our bellies with food and drink, a forgotten segment of our population are passing through each city unnoticed - the families without a Christmas. If you are a child traveling through Albuquerque by bus or train, you'll hear the conductor or bus driver announce that there are elves inside the depot waiting to lift your spirit with Christmas gifts. Gift bags, customized for boys and girls ranging from babies to teens, are filled with games, blankets, toys, and more for these young travelers to enjoy as they continue on their journey.

Special care is taken to provide toys, games and activities that will not be a distraction to other passengers or the bus driver. The Club created this unique program, provides the elves, and funds the effort for about 150 kids every Christmas. The delight of the young travelers is obvious, and appreciative parents often say the gifts are the only ones their kids will receive.

For more information about the Evening Optimist Club of Albuquerque's projects, visit abqeveningoptimist.org/



ROUTE 66 OPTIMIST CLUB OF ALBUQUERQUE

The Route 66 Optimist Club of Albuquerque has an extremely impressive list of projects to keep them busy 24/7! They provide monthly entertainment at the Harper Nursing Home. They continue their ongoing support for the multiple homeless shelters in Albuquerque (Newborns in Need, The Barrett Foundation's Safe House and Shelters, St. Martin's Hospitality Center, The Rock at NoonDay) and the Optimist International Foundation Dime a Day initiative. They prepare Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy and collect aluminum can pop tops for Ronald McDonald House (10 lbs. allows a family with a child to stay one night at the UNMH Cancer Center at no charge). These active Optimist Members also work hard every day at improving the lives of the teen-aged members of their homeless community by partnering with the Atrisco Heritage, Cibola and Rio Grande High Schools. The schools have the necessary facilities to allow homeless students to come to school early every day to take a shower and the Club maintains the closets of clothing.

Meet the Clubs of Albuquerque in the House of Optimism at the 99th Annual Optimist International Convention!



EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB OF ALBUQUERQUE

The Evening Optimist Club of Albuquerque pairs with the YMCA in the Camp Shaver Area to host a one-week camp for sixth graders. The week-long activities focus on belonging, leadership skills, and character building. The Evening Optimist Club raises funds to cover the cost of the camp. They also receive donations from local businesses, schools, other Optimist Clubs, families, and friends.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST CONVENTION: SAVE THE DATE!

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO • JULY 3-5, 2017



THE JUNIOR
OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
IS JULY
3-5, 2017 IN
ALBUQUERQUE,
NEW MEXICO.

The registration (including seven meals) is \$199 (US) for adults and youth. The room rate at the DoubleTree by Hilton is \$129 (US). There will be new workshops and District Officer Training. Continue to check junioroptimist.org for updates. Contact the Youth Clubs Department at youthclubs@optimist.org for questions.

NEW JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUBS

Since October 1, 2016, twelve new Junior Optimist Clubs (totaling 257 Members) have been added:

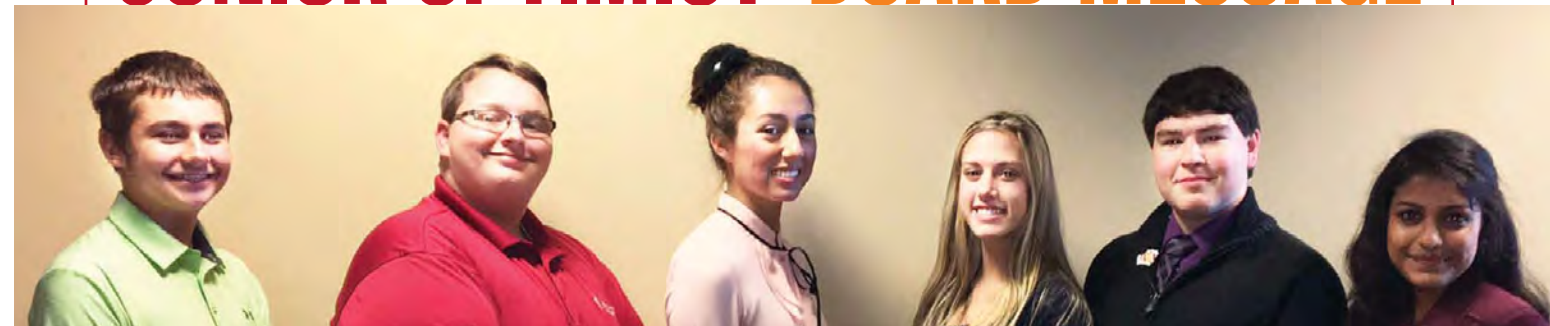
- Meadowbrook Junior Optimist Club, TX
- Place Bridge Academy Junior Optimist Club, CO
- Paso Robles High School Junior Optimist Club, CA
- CVMS Bobcats Junior Optimist Club, CA
- Student Optimists Helping Others, MI
- Junior Octagon Club of Mukwonago, WI
- Village Junior Optimist Club, CA
- Jeffersonville High School Junior Optimist Club, IN
- SPSHS Junior Octagon Club, CA
- St-Pascal Baylon Junior Optimist Club, ON
- Burleson Collegiate High School, TX
- Winter Springs High School Junior Optimist Club, FL

**Junior Optimist Clubs as of December 6*

Welcome to the Junior Optimist family! If you are interested in sponsoring a new Junior Optimist Club, contact the Youth Clubs Department at youthclubs@optimist.org.



JUNIOR OPTIMIST BOARD MESSAGE



To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. This year we are off to a great start with doing just that! We have new clubs and countless new members! As a Board, we met in October to discuss our plans for the upcoming year and how we were going to achieve them. After seeing what you all have achieved so far in the year, we are all confident that together with you, we can further this organization to make it the best it can be.

Being in a Junior Optimist Club brings a true sense of belonging. We have heard stories of shy kids who joined Junior Optimist Clubs and are now outspoken individuals who are at the top of their class. It introduces you to people that you may not have had the chance to make friends with before. Even us as Board Members would've never met if it wasn't for Junior Optimist. It makes you feel like you are giving back to your communities. That smile a child has when you give them school supplies is priceless.

Being in a Junior Optimist Club doesn't only boost your morale, it also increases your range of opportunities such as getting new jobs, getting into that school of your dreams, or achieving greatness in your own way! When people see on your resume that you were in a service organization like Junior Optimist International, they can safely assume that not only are you a good person, but you have a passion for helping others. You would be surprised how much something so small could impact your future so greatly!

For the Optimist International Members reading this, I feel confident to say that each one of you had a youth that came to mind that these descriptions made you think of. We want to encourage you to go out and enable the youth in your communities to be a part of Junior Optimist and not only to help them get engaged in their communities, but to broaden their horizons.

But, they can't do this alone. We encourage every Junior Optimist Member to go out and get teachers, family members, and family friends to go out and join an Optimist Club. This will help to form a better relationship with these people and show that not only do they care, but so do you. This can also open the door to a better working relationship between your Junior Optimist Club and your local Optimist Club.

Being a Member in this organization has helped kids find themselves and helped them to grow into more positive people. For those people who have told you that you cannot overcome your dreams, prove them wrong. Fight for what you believe in. As humans we cannot do everything alone, but with leadership and compassion, we can do anything. Junior Optimist can change your life for the better. We, as Junior Optimist Members, have learned that we might be limited alone, but as a TEAM we can accomplish anything. There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life more beautiful for others. Together We Can!

Yours in Optimism,
2016-2017 Junior Optimist International Board of Directors



HUGH CRANFORD ALL-SCHOLASTIC TEAM

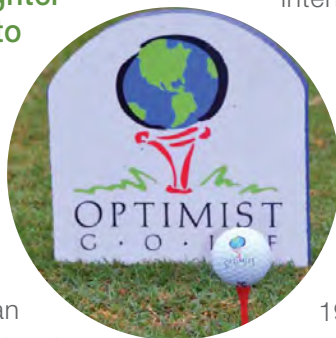
Optimist Junior Golf has five exemption opportunities into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. These special awards recognize the academic accomplishments of four junior golfers ages 16-18. Golfers must submit an application and essay to qualify. This year's essay topic: "Write a letter to your future son or daughter on why you would like them to consider taking up golf."

The fifth exemption is awarded to one junior golfer based on their golf and their community service involvement alone. An essay is not necessary for this award.

The five selected golfers receive an exemption into the Optimist International

Junior Golf Championships and complimentary registration fees which includes golf, meals and housing. Each golfer will be introduced on-site during the Opening Ceremony and will receive a commemorative plaque. Junior golfers who are interested in applying must submit an application and postmark no later than April 1, 2017 and received at the St. Louis office no later than April 6.

For more information, visit optimist.org/golf.



The Optimist Junior Golf Committee will review applications and all applicants will be notified of their status in writing by May 1, 2017. Applicants will be considered based on their academic record, but must also show that they have acceptable tournament experience to be able to compete at the international level.

If you have any questions, contact Sharon Parton, Junior Golf Director, at golf@optimist.org, (314) 881-1307 or toll free (800) 500-8130, ext. 207.

Hugh Cranford served as Executive Director of Optimist International from 1967 to 1986. He was instrumental in starting the Optimist Junior Golf program and in 1978 led the efforts to co-sponsor the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, the forerunner to today's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Cranford passed away August 2014



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The 11th Annual Optimist Tournament of Champions brought together some of the world's most talented young competitors to PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

In the youngest boys 11-13 age division, Allan Kournikova (Palm Beach, FL) topped the leaderboard with a 69-70. Gregory Solhaug (Norway) finished second with a 72-72 and winning third by a scorecard playoff was Nashawn Tyson (North Palm Beach, FL) with a 76-69.

In the girls 11-13 division, placing 1st was 9-year old Chloe Kovelesky (Boca Raton, FL). She shot a 76-73. Hanana Kawada (Japan) took second place with a 75-82 and by scorecard playoff Ariel Gonzalez (Mexico) shot 80-78, taking third.

In the boys 14-15 division, Robin Williams (United Kingdom) came out the leader with a 70-67 followed by Logan Broyles (Mendon, VT) 70-69 and taking third place by a scorecard playoff was Nicolas Quintero (Colombia) with a 76-72.

In the girls 14-18 division, 12-year old Alexa Pano (Lake Worth, FL) last year's winner of the girls 11-13 age division played up and took the title shooting a 70-71. Second place went to Agustina Gomez Cisterna (Argentina) 70-73 who won by a scorecard playoff against Daniela Gonzalez (Colombia).

Past Champion Sachin Kumar (Trinidad and Tobago) tried to defend his title in a sudden death playoff against Brock Polhill (Edmond, OK). Brock came out ahead placing Sachin in second. Coming in third was Amadeo Figus (Port St. Lucie, FL) 75-72.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

Thank you to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission for the continued partnership supporting the Optimist Junior Golf Program.



CORRECTION FROM THE OPTIMIST FALL 2016 ISSUE: MISSING FROM THE ARTICLE WERE THE BOYS 12-13 AGE GROUP TOP FINISHERS. IN THAT AGE GROUP, THEY WERE:

1. ERIC DOYLE (San Diego, California) 71-74-68 – 213
2. NICKLAS STAUB (Boynton Beach, Florida) 71-69-75 – 215
- T3. JACOB TORRES (Aiea, Hawaii) 74-73-72 – 219
- T3. JORDAN JENNINGS (Montrose, Colorado) 72-71-76 – 219

JUNIOR GOLFER: CHILTON PRICE

Submitted by: David Hodges, Mahler Thorp Optimist Sports Club, North Carolina East District

I visited an independent (private) school conference match last May to find a golfer or two who might want to play in our North Carolina East District Qualifier. I had been told by a Member of our Club that there was a young golfer that I might want to consider. He didn't know the kid's name, but he said that I couldn't miss him. They simply said, "Just look for the smallest golfer on the course."

At the conclusion of play, I noticed that the young man, Chilton Price, had posted the match's second best score. I congratulated Chilton for his excellent round and encouraged him to come play in our June qualifier. It was about that time when it was announced that due to his age his score would not count, and that all of his scores for the season would not count towards determining how his school, Oakwood, would rank in the conference.

I spoke with Chilton again and his parents and told him again how remarkable his efforts on the course that day were. He was playing against high school boys, some of who were 18 years old.

I found out that Chilton's father had been a linebacker coach at East Carolina University. His dad had lost his job when the school fired its' head football coach.

Leaving the parking lot at the golf course, something told me that there was more to Chilton's story. I stopped to talk with his mom and discovered that Chilton had a special story. The following is an email I received from Chilton's father, Duane Price:

"It all started with a set of plastic clubs at the age of two. Chilton was a natural and loved to mimic the swings of the golfers on television, so we bought him a set of Snoopy clubs and hit the course.



Playing golf was a release for the whole family. Chilton had recently been diagnosed with a rare bone marrow failure syndrome called Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome and had been under the care of several doctors at Texas Children's Hospital. Through all the blood transfusions, bone marrow aspirations, and doctor visits, the course was a place to escape and relax as a family. Not to mention the stress and demands that comes with being a Texas high school football coach and the demands my wife dealt with being a public school teacher. Golf became more than just a game.

Chilton learned and loved the game of golf more and more each day. He started playing in tournaments at the age of four and has continued to play and is now 13. He has won some and lost several, but his passion and love for the game has continued to grow. Golf became more than just a game.

Even through all our moves as a family, because I am now a collegiate football coach, his love for the game continues. Through his three knee surgeries in four years, his love for the game has grown. Through his two hip stress reactions where he had to stay away from the game, his love for the game has grown. Always being two years behind in growth and club size, his love for the game has grown. All of these challenges stemmed from his rare syndrome, which affect his skeletal system, pancreas, and bone marrow. Golf became more than just a game.

The game of golf has allowed our child to experience success and failure. We have never used his diagnosis as an excuse or a crutch. Since his growth has been delayed, he is just now in full length clubs and distance is no longer an obstacle. This had been a struggle for him when competing. We told him to stay the course, no pun intended, and do the best he could. Just keep working hard and work on keeping a positive attitude. Patience is hard for any 10yr old boy who is super competitive. We told him he would eventually catch up to everyone else. Golf became more than just a game.

This season Chilton has thrived on the course, and it hasn't been an easy time for him. We had another child in August, so Chilton became an older brother at 12. I also lost my coaching job at ECU in December, which was very public and difficult. He has dealt with

these changes and adversity in a positive manner. He has played and competed on his school golf team at Oakwood against high school golfers. The League Championship was held at his home course at Ironwood, and he had been preparing for this all spring. After 18 holes and 6,100 yards later, Chilton shot an 81. This was a huge accomplishment for him at such a long distance for his age. He was so excited when he saw his score on the leaderboard, and even more excited to see it was the second best overall score and behind a senior. He would later understand that his score would not count to qualify for State or All Conference honors. In fact, none of the scores he posted all season would count. The coaches acknowledged Chilton's score and success and explained he was only a sixth grader. Of course Chilton was a little confused about everything, so we explained why his score didn't count. His reaction was priceless. He said, "It so counts to me!" He didn't need the trophy or accolades to be proud of himself and understand what he accomplished with his hard work, persistence, and patience. He had finally matured mentally and physically before our eyes. Golf had become more than just a game. It became a lifesaver!"

The family was moving in a couple of weeks to Texas. I wanted Chilton to leave Greenville and eastern North Carolina with some good memories and recognition. I hoped that there was some way that we might figure out something we could do for Chilton.

I talked with Chilton's golf coach, principal, teacher and club pros at two local golf courses. The report on Chilton was as I expected. All gave him nothing but positive comments. I ordered a trophy for Chilton that named him "NC East District's Junior Golfer of the Year." We surprised Chilton with a trophy presentation at the same golf course where his scores for the golf season had been ignored. Chilton's parents, grandmother, pastor, golf coaches, and principal were all present. When asked to say a few words, Chilton's statement was a real tear jerker.

A day before Chilton's move to Texas, I asked two Members of our Club to play a round of golf with Chilton. They played. Chilton not only has a remarkable positive attitude on life; he also has a beautiful golf swing. The autographed glove and ball that Chilton presented to me is my most prized Optimist Junior Golf possession.



Club Fitness ADVISORS

Do you see a topic that your Club needs help with? Whether its Honor Club requirements, how to revitalize your Club or ideas how to recruit new Members - your Club Fitness Advisor can help! Club Fitness Advisors are here to promote strength and stability through teamwork and support the health and continuous growth at all levels within Districts and Clubs. To locate your Club Fitness Advisor, call (800) 500-8130 ext. 214 or e-mail clubfitness@optimist.org.

improvement
collaboration plan
Honor Club resources
NOW unity care energy
PGI renew support
celebrate success encourage
accomplishments growth opportunity
communication reward coaching
mentoring healthy
Club Fitness Advisor
cooperation PDP tracking teamwork
constructive proactive Region
action EXCEL club 3R cake
members recognize advocate
District refresh together
revitalize Optimist
New ICD-135 zone
non-calendar



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Optimist International Foundation is accepting applications for the 2017 Club Grant Program. Grants will be awarded to Clubs that start a new project that impacts the youth in their community. The Club Grant Program provides 20 matching grants of \$500 to Optimist Clubs.



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.

EXAMPLES OF HOW SOME OF THE OPTIMIST CLUBS USED THEIR GRANTS LAST YEAR:

- the Optimist Club of St. Paul, Minnesota, assisted inner city students in sharing their poetry writing skills with the community.
- the Optimist Club of McFarland, Wisconsin, provided weekend snack sacks to needy middle school students so they would have nutritional food outside of the school meal program.
- the Hill Country Optimist Club of San Antonio, Texas, assisted high risk students in developing their math skills over summer break.
- the Marana-Foothills Optimist Club of Marana, Arizona, helped an alternative high school begin a student run garden project.

Sixteen additional Clubs received grants to start new projects that impacted their community.

Any eligible Optimist Club that has a new project or event should apply by visiting Optimist International Foundation's website at oifoundation.org. Applications must be received by March 7, 2017.

Any adult Club served by the Optimist International Foundation is eligible to apply as long as they meet the following guidelines:

- The project must be new to the Club.
- The project must start and finish between April 2017 and March 2018.
- Grants to Clubs will be matching grants, with Clubs expected to show plans for matching the money and reporting the results. Clubs will complete follow-up reports.
- Grants are only for one year.
- Club dues must be current.
- Clubs might consider using the Pass Through Program to obtain donations from local businesses and Foundations.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JANUARY 2, 2017

Applications available online at oifoundation.org and by fax or mail upon request.

MARCH 7, 2017

Applications are due! Applications must have been received in the St. Louis office. Please do not send applications to the Optimist International Foundation's P.O. Box.

MAY 19, 2017

Winners are notified and asked to identify someone to receive a check at the International Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO THE CALL

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is proud to be part of several projects that make a difference in the lives of youth all across Canada. With the outsourcing program, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation helped the Kids Mental Health Optimist Club of Canada. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation was able to optimize their fundraising efforts in order to produce great videos about anxiety that are available online at miunderstanding.ca.

The following article was featured in the *The Londoner* on September 9, 2016 and was written by Chris Montanini. The original text, "Local Approach to Children's Mental Health Awareness Inspires New Optimist Club" can be found online at thelondoner.ca.

A lack of children's mental health resources is motivating Londoner Paula Jesty to create her own, but she isn't alone on her mission to educate local families about the importance of early intervention.

A former local television producer, Jesty has since moved on to a career in partnership development. More recently, she has been using both of these skills to establish a unique children's mental health awareness organization called M.I. understanding.

The M.I. stands for mental illness. The organization, founded by Jesty about four years ago, is focused on producing kid-friendly mental health exhibits and web-based video shorts to build awareness and empathy for children's mental health issues.

"The real focus is to create a community support for families dealing with mental health," Jesty said. "Our target audience is kids under 12 with our focus being the importance of early intervention."

The organization's newest project is a series of short videos featuring professional puppeteers Andy Hayward (Elmo's Christmas Countdown), Frank Meschkuleit (Toopy and Binoo), and Gord Robertson (Zoboombafo). A pilot is currently available on their website and five videos in total — one each for five different types of anxiety, including obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) — are expected to be ready by the middle of the month.

“We’re respectful of the anxiety in this case but at the same time, we have fun with it,” Jesty explained. “What we found is whether it was adults, whether it was children, whether it was teen groups, whenever we showed these videos, hands go up and people are able to talk about it. The resounding answer is, if a (puppet) dog and chicken can talk about it, so can I.”

Nine graduates of Fanshawe College's Contemporary Media program worked as cast and crew. Scripts were developed with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Care Program at Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre, Thames Valley District School Board's Mental Health Task Force and Fanshawe College. Three local charities provided funds for the project: Gerald C. Baines Foundation, The Agape Foundation of London and Westminster College Foundation.

"We really wanted to make sure we were doing it properly," Jesty said, adding that children's mental health has become less difficult to pitch to potential partners over the past four years.

"We wanted to make sure the information was vetted through the proper resources and we wanted to make sure we were coming up with a product that was going to help the people that needed it."

Jesty's project also inspired Ed and Ruth Edwards, a couple of long-time Members of the Southwestern Ontario Optimists. Convinced by evidence suggesting early intervention can successfully help kids overcome mental illness, the pair has started The Kids Mental Health Optimist Club of Canada, the first of its kind among the organization's 78 Clubs across the region.

"We are selfishly wanting to learn as much from M.I. understanding as we can so we can take that information and build it into Optimist programs so each Club can feel comfortable that they're doing what we hope is their number one fundamental purpose, and that is get rid of the stigma of children's mental health," Ed Edwards said.

"A lot of people we run into, whether it's a grandchild or a neighbour, there is so much anxiety today and it just seems so prevalent that we had to do something," Ruth Edwards added. "It's all Paula, we just found a way to get it out there and get more people involved."



“We’re just really hoping this is a tool that communities and people can use to start a conversation at home and at schools and at community groups. It certainly is an issue and I think what we’re hoping is it just starts a conversation that isn’t being had enough at this point.”

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

624	Dutch Erickson	629	Ronald Ibsen	634	Alan Hoal
625	Kieth Bodine	630	Verne Rhodes	635	Doug Lamm
626	Ray Shane	631	Gary Pender	636	Malcolm "Mac" McDonald
627	Robert H. Dintleman	632	Jimmy G. Keith	637	Manon Daigneault
628	Estel Hamilton	633	Marvin Register		

Top Ten as of September 30, 2016

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	William Lundquist	\$43.35
Capital-Virginia	Barbara Grizzard	\$22.93
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$20.98
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$18.30
Alabama-Mississippi	John Varnado	\$17.20
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$16.62
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$15.90
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$15.83
New Mexico-West Texas	Susan Sears	\$14.09
South Texas	Irvin Williams	\$12.56

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Barry Burnham	\$39,218.90
Arizona	William Lundquist	\$33,896.78
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$32,176.47
Iowa	Cynthia Barber	\$27,352.05
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$26,398.26
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$22,639.80
Ohio	Jennifer Kendo	\$22,178.95
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jeri Gorman	\$21,871.49
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$21,595.70
South Texas	Irvin Williams	\$21,006.58

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Rod McKendrick	\$45.71
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$27.35
Eastern Ontario	Ronald Fournier	\$22.84

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Rod McKendrick	\$38,441.506
Eastern Ontario	Ronald Fournier	\$27,543.38
Southwestern Ontario	John Post & Gordon Brownlee	\$24,868.48



Donor Listings

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

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

EASTERN ONTARIO
 Yves Berthiaume
 WEST MISSOURI
 Optimist Club of Raymore-Peculiar, MO

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

CAPITAL- VIRGINIA
 Optimist Club of Richmond-Greater, VA
 COLORADO-WYOMING
 Optimist Club of Denver-Breakfast Windsor Gardens, CO
 IOWA
 Optimist Club of Davenport-Quad Cities-Morning, IA
 KANSAS
 Optimist Club of Lawrence, KS
 MICHIGAN
 Optimist Club of West Branch, MI
 NORTH CAROLINA EAST
 Billy and Janis Edgerton
 NORTH FLORIDA
 Vi and Charles Hayworth
 PACIFIC CENTRAL
 Optimist Club of Sacramento, CA
 PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
 Steven J. Duben
 QUEBEC SOUTH
 Luc Dubois
 SOUTHERN WISCONSIN
 Optimist Club of Platteville, WI

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
 Rod McKendrick
 IOWA
 Optimist Club of Council Bluffs-West End, IA
 MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
 Ruth Yates

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
 Optimist Club of Talladega, AL
 CALIFORNIA SOUTH
 Optimist Club of San Diego-Success, CA
 CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
 Optimist Club of Leesburg, VA
 EASTERN ONTARIO
 Gaëtan Simard
 MICHIGAN
 Stephen A. Sucher
 MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
 Optimist Club of Norwich, ON
 NEBRASKA
 Optimist Club of Norfolk, NE
 Optimist Club of Norfolk-Noon, NE
 NORTH FLORIDA
 Optimist Club of Jacksonville-Arlington, FL
 OHIO
 Jennifer R. Kendo
 Optimist Club of Brunswick, OH
 SOUTH TEXAS
 Optimist Club of San Antonio-Turtle Creek, TX
 WEST MISSOURI
 Optimist Club of Blue Springs-Sunset, MO

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ARIZONA
 Robert J. Land
 CENTRAL ONTARIO
 Optimist Club of Lancaster, ON
 EAST MISSOURI
 Pat Abernathy
 INDIANA NORTH
 Optimist Club of Rushville-Breakfast, IN
 IOWA
 Optimist Club of North Scott, IA
 KANSAS
 Muriel A. Walpole
 MICHIGAN
 Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe-Lakeshore, MI
 Optimist Club of Shelby Township Area, MI
 NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND
 Bruce J. Maclain
 NORTH TEXAS
 Optimist Club of Grand Prairie, TX
 PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
 Norris N. Jernigan

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

QUEBEC SOUTH
 Edith Lemieux
 SOUTH TEXAS
 Optimist Club of Laredo, TX
 WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN
 Phillip Simila

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
 Optimist Club of Selma, AL
 ARIZONA
 Optimist Club of Marana-Foothills, AZ
 CALIFORNIA SOUTH
 James H. Walker
 CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
 Jo Anna Tremper
 COLORADO-WYOMING
 Joann C. Booth
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 EAST MISSOURI
 Optimist Club of Arnold-Imperial, MO
 GEORGIA
 Katherine Forster
 IOWA
 Thomas Cooley
 MICHIGAN
 Catherine M. Balik
 Lynn Heckler
 Optimist Club of Whitehall-Whitelake Area, MI
 PACIFIC SOUTHEAST
 Barry L. Dolgovin
 Optimist Club of Buena Park-Suburban, CA
 QUEBEC CENTER
 Richard Marcil
 QUEBEC EAST & ACADIE
 Maryse Baillargeon Drouin
 QUEBEC SOUTH
 Gabrielle Lalonde



"Each serving of Leadership Crunch cereal contains 12 grams of confidence, 9 grams of wisdom, 17 grams of patience, 11 grams of inspiration, 22 grams of motivation and 2 grams of sugar."



"Criticism means I think you have what it takes to do better. It's actually a compliment."

A salesman dropped in to see a business customer. Not a soul was in the office except a big dog emptying wastebaskets. The salesman stared at the animal, wondering if his imagination could be playing tricks on him. The dog looked up and said, "Don't be surprised. This is just part of my job." "Incredible!" exclaimed the man. "I can't believe it! Does your boss know what a prize he has in you? An animal that can talk!" "No, no," pleaded the dog. "Please don't tell him! If that man finds out I can talk, he'll make me answer the phone as well!"

An old man is driving home from work when his wife rings him on his cell phone.

"Honey," she says in a worried voice, "please be careful. There was a bit on the news just now, some lunatic is driving the wrong way down the highway."

"Oh it's worse than that," he replies, "there are hundreds of them!"

Two friends, one an Optimist and the other a Pessimist, could never quite agree on any topic of discussion. One day, the Optimist decided he had found a

good way to pull his Pessimistic friend out of his way of continual Pessimistic way of thinking. The Optimist owned a hunting dog that could walk on water. His plan? Take the Pessimist and the dog out duck hunting in a boat. They got out into the middle of the lake, and the Optimist shot down a duck. The dog immediately walked out across the water, retrieved the duck, and walked back to the boat. The Optimist looked at his Pessimistic friend and said, "What do you think about that?" The Pessimist replied, "That dog can't swim, can he?"

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- 8 countries represented at the First Annual Optimist International Oratorical World Championships

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