

Bringing Out the Best



Into the Next Century

The Optimist

Winter 2019

Louisville Convention
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Optimist International Convention at
www.optimist.org/convention



Louisville, Kentucky
June 30 – July 3, 2019



MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

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

THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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On the Cover

Plan your trip now to the 101st Annual Optimist International Convention.

For more information about the convention, see pages 16-18.



THE PROMISE OF A NEW YEAR

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2018-19
President Rebecca Butler Mona



Optimist friends, as this magazine arrives in your hands, it will be January of 2019 ... a time when most of the world celebrates a “new year” with all the potential that offers ... for continuation of success and happiness, or for a fresh start with renewed energy toward achieving your goals and dreams. Whatever your personal goals may be, I wish you all the best and hope that your involvement in your local Optimist Club plays a role in making 2019 a memorable year for you.

For many of us, our best memories and feelings of personal fulfillment come from working together to help others and make a difference in our community and the world by improving people’s lives... one child at a time, one person at a time, one day at a time, one project at a time. Never underestimate the impact you have with a single act of kindness, a word of encouragement, a helping hand.

“ In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love. ”
– Mother Teresa

As we celebrate 100 years of “Bringing Out the Best” in youth, communities and ourselves, it is clear that who we are and what we do as Optimists are needed now more than ever. Today’s children are faced with great opportunities but also with many challenges that we could not

imagine even just a few years ago, brought on by this fast-paced, high-tech, socially networked and sedentary society. As Optimists, we have the mission and the ability to reach out to young people in our community and offer hope and positive role models to make their future brighter.

I have been inspired in my travels over the past several months by the wide range of ways that our Optimist Clubs are having a significant and positive impact on their local communities. Now is the perfect time to consider what you bring to your local young people and other citizens whether in our scholarship competitions, leadership development and community service with our Junior Optimist programs, youth sports, childhood health and wellness focus, or other projects. Are we doing all we can? Are we doing what matters most?

“ You may find that making a difference for others make the biggest difference in you. ”
– Brian Williams

Ask yourself also: Who else in your community would enjoy being involved in the meaningful work and fun fellowship you have in your local Optimist Club? And what other neighborhoods and their youth would benefit from having a new Optimist Club to serve their community?

Together, we have the opportunity – and the responsibility – to leave our communities and our clubs in a stronger position than when we began this year. I encourage you to invite others to join us in our mission to “provide hope and a positive vision” so that we can continue to Bring Out the Best in Youth, Our Communities and Ourselves – into the Next Century!

**Promise Yourself –
to Bring your Personal Best!**



Centennial "Fast Start" Award

(promote Convention attendance and growth)

DEADLINE MARCH 31 / END Q2

CLUB "FAST START"

Criteria

- Build a New Adult Club
- Net +5 in Members end of Q2 (on track for +10 year-end)

Award

- Every Member of Club eligible for \$100 Convention registration in Louisville



DISTRICT "FAST START"

Criteria

- Build 2 new Adult Clubs
- End Q2 at + 15 Members

Award

- Every Member of District eligible for \$100 Convention registration in Louisville



Promote the **Centennial "Fast Start" Awards** for Clubs and the District to earn \$100 Louisville Convention Registration fee based on meeting growth objectives by March 31, 2019. Districts with 2 new clubs and +15 in members and Clubs with 1 new club and +5 members by that date can earn \$100 registration for EVERY member!

Opportunity Knocks

Human beings have an innate need for their lives to have a meaningful purpose. Joining and becoming actively involved in an Optimist Club's youth-serving projects/activities provides an individual the opportunity to satisfy this need. Opportunity is "knocking at the door". Please encourage your friends, co-workers, relatives and mere acquaintances to "open the door" and avail themselves of this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the youth in their own communities and beyond. Embracing this mindset can be helpful to those Optimists who find recruiting new Members to be "out of their comfort zones".

Yours in Optimism,

Dave Phillips
Optimist International Membership Committee

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 August 1 and December 1:

LEVEL VII

Kristin Anglin	NTX
Hal Bell	GA
Cameka Campbell-Green	CAR
Nicole Courchesne	QUCE
Theresa Ellington	CAR
Linda Evancio	AMS&NW
Nancy Gagnon	QUWE
Lillian Gilmore	SC
Donna Hepburn	CAR
Susie B. Hinton	SC
Marcia Hynes	CAR
Norman Johnson	CAR
Roy Rayon	CAR
Charlie M. Robinson	SC

LEVEL X

Margaret "Peggy" Allen	NY
Kristin Anglin	NTX
Noelline Bourque	QUCE
Nancy Gagnon	QUWE
Lillian Gilmore	SC
Carolle Hainsley	CAR
Susie B. Hinton	SC
Charlie M. Robinson	SC

Be proud. REPRESENT. Optimist Day is February 7, 2019.

Members of Optimist International will celebrate Optimist Day throughout the world the first Thursday of every February to promote our efforts in bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

On Optimist Day, Optimists around the world are asked to wear Optimist attire – shirts, pins, hats, etc. Post your best Optimist attire on social media and tag Optimist International or use the #OptimistDay hashtag. Send your photos to marketing@optimist.org to be featured in future publications.



VIEWS



DON'T FORGET YOUR FRIEND OF OPTIMISTS

Recruiting Friend of Optimists volunteers is an effective way to increase Club's membership while accommodating the very active lifestyle people have today.

A Friend Membership allows individuals flexibility, while adding to your Club's volunteer work force.

NEW MEMBERS = NEW IDEAS, LEADERSHIP & ENERGY!

Visit optimist.org for more information.



In Memoriam...

The Optimist International family mourns the loss of Justin Meek and Art Long.

Justin Meek was a former Junior Optimist Club President in Coronado, CA. The Club started off with 15 Members and he recruited over 60 Members. His sister, Victoria Rose Meek, was an International Board Member in 2013-14. He was one of the 12 victims in the tragic Thousand Oaks shooting on November 7, 2018. He died a hero helping many, including his own sister, escape. Justin was a recent graduate of California Lutheran University. Also known as a gifted musician, a talented athlete, a spirited peer, a leader, an advocate for others, a champion of all, he will always be a part of our Junior Optimist Family and has made a huge impact on the world.



1984-85 International President Ardyn "Art" Long passed away peacefully on November 6, 2018, in Ohio. During his presidency more members were added as Optimists than any other previous years. When he was a member of the Riverdale Optimist Club, Art started the Pass, Shoot and Dribble contest, which was designed to encourage youth to compete in basketball. Art was highly involved in helping the Optimist community for about 48 years. Art and his family were also proud owners of Art Long Insurance in Dayton, which was in the family for over 40 years. He enjoyed many things such as playing tennis, cards, being active in his children's sporting events, traveling, being in Florida and life on the farm.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF OPTIMISM



For the past 100 years, Optimist Clubs across the country and around the world have been “Bringing Out the Best” in youth, communities and each other. As we embark on our next century, we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the positive impact of our organization at a local level, involving not only members of our Clubs but the broader community as well. Centennial celebrations come in a wide variety -- choose what works best for your club and your community. Be creative!

In this issue, we’re featuring a few examples including service projects collecting 100 items to donate, and a cross-district, multi-club Centennial celebration featuring a mayor and several youth organizations served by the local Optimist Clubs. The possibilities are really endless – use your imagination!

If you’d like some ideas, check out the list available at www.optimist.org/centennial under “100 Ways to Celebrate”. Remember to invite local city and government leaders as well as the media as you showcase your Optimist Club. There are many ways to celebrate whether your budget is a few dollars, a few hundred dollars, or much more.

Please share your photos and videos in social media and also with marketing@optimist.org so we can feature them in Optimist International’s external marketing as well as at our Optimist International Convention in Louisville in 2019. We look forward to seeing your stories!

The “100 Purses” Project

Submitted by: **Emily Finch, Optimist Club of Port Stanley, Ontario**

Optimist Lin Welsh’s daughter had just given her 13 purses and that was all it took for the “100 Purses” project to evolve. Optimist Margaret Barrie also volunteers at “Inn Out of the Cold” in St. Thomas and she explained how visitors to that program often were given items, but had nowhere to keep them. The “Grace Café,” a mission and soup kitchen, has a very large number of daily visitors that could also benefit from our project.

At that point we only had 13 purses and were asking friends for donations. After some Facebook publicity, 30 more purses were donated. People were contacting us and dropping items off. A retired Avon lady offered her leftover products – toiletries and other useful ladies’ items. A local dental supply store donated over 700 products to put in the purses.

The first 50 purses were packed and delivered to “Inn Out of the Cold” in November 2018 and the next 50 purses will be delivered to the “Grace Café” in January.

This project’s success is due totally to the massive amount of donations that we received. The Optimist Club of Port Stanley extends a huge **thank you** to all donors.



Centennial Celebrations

Submitted by: **James Patrick Schmidt, Optimist Club of Silvis, Illinois**

The Optimist Clubs in the Quad Cities rang in the new year with President Rebecca Butler Mona! On October 4, we had eight clubs from two districts join together for a Centennial Celebration in Silvis, Illinois (Milan, Moline, and Silvis in Illinois; Bettendorf, Davenport Noon, North Scott, Quad-City Morning, and River Valley in Iowa).

In addition to presentations from President Butler Mona and Illinois Governor Sandi Schmidt, we took this opportunity to hear from organizations that have benefited from the work of all our clubs. The presentations were inspiring and included:

- **BSA Troop 383:** Presented the colors.
- **Friendly House:** Shared stories of how Optimists have helped achieve the Friendly House Vision of strengthening neighborhoods, one person at a time.
- **YouthHope:** Reciting of a spoken word poem by a program participant and shared stories of how Optimists have helped YouthHope encourage, equip and empower at-risk children.
- **Jefferson School:** Showed pictures of partnership in a reading program and coat drive.

Mayor Matt Carter also declared October 4 to be "Optimist International Centennial Celebration Day" in Silvis and presented the proclamation to President Butler Mona. One of the local news stations covered the event, providing great exposure for our clubs, as well.

This event energized our members for the new year, and it was rewarding to give the floor to the organizations we supported. Each group offered their thanks for the support of our clubs, and it was a great reminder how our hard work makes a difference!



60th Anniversary celebration of the Sunrise Optimist Club of Lockport, NY, with Past Club President Peter Stutz, President Rebecca and Club President Don Urte.



Above: Hotel Lafayette, Buffalo, New York – meeting location of our first Optimist Club in 1911 and the new Buffalo-Lafayette Optimist Club.

Right: Club President Kathleen Kratochvil signing the Incorporation papers.



#Optimist100 Conferences

Forty-three Districts held #Optimist100 Conferences in conjunction with their first quarter meetings to get the year off to a great start. Building on recommendations from the Optimist Strong Conferences held last year, this year's conferences consisted of four training modules based on the four goals of our Centennial year. The training was designed to be no longer than one-half day and to bring new training to all Optimist Members attending their first District conference of the year. An "outside" trainer worked with the Governor and District Leadership Chair to provide training offering Clubs and Members fresh ideas to try in their own communities as our organization celebrates its hundredth year!

Feedback on the #Optimist100 Conference training has been outstanding, with Members saying that they found it to be fun, informative and useful and they had lots of new ideas to take back to their communities. Topics ranged from "Bridging the Generations Gap" to "100 Ways to Appreciate Your Members" to "100 Years: Let's Celebrate!" and "Back to Basics Budgeting." By popular request, lists of ways to appreciate members and celebrate our Centennial are available on our Optimist International Centennial website at www.optimist.org/centennial.

Thank you to each District who hosted a #Optimist100 Conference as a way to share new information and ideas with Clubs, and to all of our trainers. Another thank you to each Member who took the time to attend the conferences!



Kentucky-West Virginia District, with trainer Janet Lloyd, Past Optimist International Vice President.



North Texas District, with President Rebecca and Governor Jill Rodgers.



Pacific Southwest, with Vice President-Elect Russ Thomas and Governor Cathy Hicks.



Michigan District, with Vice President-Elect Teri Davis and Vice President Cheryl Thames.



GATEway District.



Southwest Ontario.



Québec West District, with DOQ Governor Nancy Gagnon, DEO Governor Marc Roy, and friends.



Ohio District Governor Sue Armstrong.

Food Bank of Iowa

Submitted by: Janet Lloyd, District Centennial Chair

The members of the Iowa District held a food drive at the First Quarter District Conference. The goal was simple, collect 100 non-perishable food items to benefit the Food Bank of Iowa in honor of the 100th anniversary of Optimist International.

The project came about rather quickly. An e-mail was sent to the members of the District the week of the conference, asking them to bring an item already in their cupboard at home. Our members responded: By that afternoon 93 items were collected then several members decided a dollar bill was an item that could be donated, and quickly the goal was attained!

The final tally was 125 non-perishable food items and \$25 cash.



Photo of Governor Mark Feilmann, District Centennial Chair, Janet Lloyd, Great Plains Vice President Edie Harris.



50TH ANNIVERSARY TREE SALE

Submitted by: Chris Jones, Optimist Club of Camillus, New York



55 years ago a group of Camillus, New York, residents formed the local chapter of Camillus Optimists on May 9th, 1963, with the sole purpose of bringing out the best in our young people in the community.

Over the years this group has brought such numerous youth programs, awards, programs, and projects that we can't list them all, but we support all aspects of Camillus community life.

For 50 years, the local Camillus Optimist Club has held one single fundraiser to fund all of its charitable works, and that is their Annual Christmas Tree Sale. While dozens of club members and volunteers make the tree sale happen, this one program has been chaired by one of our most senior members for over 25 years. Pat Lisi, a truly remarkable man, has provided the steady hand of leadership of this program.

This year, being the 50th anniversary of our tree selling efforts and honoring Lisi's 25 years of unwavering dedication to the club and the Tree Sale program, the local chapter teamed up with two local business owners and the town's Park and Recreation department to provide a complete overhaul of the tree sale trailer, which serves as home base for our operations from from the Saturday after Thanksgiving until we sell the lot clean of trees. The trailer is being renamed Lisi's Lodge and has been professionally restored by Custom Rides and Twisted Metal Body Shop and Silverback Kustoms, both located in Marietta, New York.



Optimism is alive and well in Camillus, New York, as we have forged an incredible bond of teamwork with our partners at the West Genesee School District, the Camillus Parks and Recreation Department, various community leaders/volunteers of youth related activities, local businesses, and dozens of citizen volunteers that have donated their time, energy efforts and dollars to bring out the best in the youth of Camillus. It is one of the many things that makes Camillus an incredible community in which to live in Onondaga County!





50 YEARS OF SUCCESS!

Submitted by: Hélène Parent, L'Épiphanie Optimist Club Secretary

On October 6th, more than 140 former and current members of the Optimist Club of L'Épiphanie gathered to share a good meal and celebrate the club's 50th anniversary. Founded in 1968 by Victorien Chaput, the Club has remained faithful to its mission to bring the best in youth. Thanks to the dedication of our members, numerous educational and recreational activities have been offered to the children in our community over the years, from Optimist Oratorical Contests, Safety on Wheels Program and summer and winter camps to jigsaw puzzle tournaments and Youth Appreciation Brunches valuing scholastic effort. Not to mention the countless fundraisers: raffles, plays and various parties that have ensured regular funding.



During the evening, expertly emceed by current member Mr. Robert Fagnant, guests took advantage of the reunion's atmosphere to look back on good memories, talk about the past, and to

have a picture taken inside the magnificent

balloon structure created in honor of the event. A video montage, created by current member Yves Collin, provided a wonderful backdrop for these recollections. We also dedicated a few minutes to remember those members who have passed away.

Our Club President, Madeleine Dumont, welcomed the many guests who came to participate in this festive moment. She accepted the International President honorary certificate with deep gratitude presented by Ms. Manon Daigneault, Governor 2017-2018 of the Quebec Centre District. The former Lieutenant Governor from our zone, Ms. Maryse Riopel, the current Governor, Ms. Carine Therrien, as well as our Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Françoise Sarrasin, also honored us with their presence, as well as one of our current members, who was recently inducted into the Optimist Hall of Fame, former Governor, Mr. Denis Lévesque.

We tip our hat to the team's impeccable work in organizing a memorable evening to mark this historic event. We look forward to many more years of active service from the Optimist Club L'Épiphanie.



Center of Québec Governor Carine Therrien (top right) with her leadership team promoting the "Pay It Forward" theme.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Proudly displaying the Club's 50 years of Optimist service certificate!

TARGETED RECRUITMENT CALENDAR

The 2018-2019 International Membership Committee is encouraging all Optimist Clubs to participate in “targeted recruitment” each month of this Optimist year. While all Members are valuable; this calendar will hopefully encourage Clubs to look for new Members in areas that they may not have thought of.

OCTOBER

What better place to start than with those who already know our organization. This group is also helped by an incentive lasting the entire 2018-2019 Optimist year, where **former Optimist Members** can rejoin a Club for only \$30 in international dues for their first year!

NOVEMBER

Young Professionals It's no secret that many Optimist

Clubs tend to represent the older demographic. Young professionals can bring new ideas and skillsets to your Optimist Club. These Members are also frequently eager to provide hands-on help at service projects and fundraisers. The \$30 under 30 incentive is still in place so any new Member aged 30 or younger can join for only \$30 in international dues for their first year!

DECEMBER

Family members Optimist Clubs frequently forget to look for Members right under their own roofs! December was chosen since many families gather together for the holidays. Share the gift of Optimism with your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, cousins, etc. Create your legacy of Optimism!

JANUARY

One Less Decade While young professionals are a great way to

bring younger Members into your Club... sometimes recruiting Members in their 20s or early 30s can be difficult for many Clubs. In January, each Member is encouraged to recruit someone who is about 10 years younger than themselves. Some Clubs will lower their average age just by recruiting Members in their 40s, 50s, or 60s.

FEBRUARY

Healthcare Professionals Many healthcare professionals are well connected within the community and may have keen insight into additional needs for children.

MARCH

Local Business Owners These individuals can prove invaluable in a variety of ways by helping provide materials or services for Clubs at a free or discounted rate. They stand to benefit by having the Club promote their business. A win-win for the Club and the business!

APRIL

Past Participants and Parents of Optimist Club Programs (Oratorical, Essay, Golf, CCDHH, etc.)

Who better to recruit than individuals who have seen first-hand how your Club can help the community? Ask parents to support the Club that has given their child these opportunities. Encourage youth participants to get involved with a Junior Optimist Club, or as an adult Member after they have turned 18.

MAY

Law Enforcement/Active Duty Military/Veterans One of the purposes of Optimist Clubs is to: “to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people”. What better group to help with this than law enforcement, military, and veterans?

JUNE

Past Junior Optimists Work with your local Junior Optimist advisors to try and keep these kids involved even after they have graduated from high school! Any past Junior Optimist Members are able to join any Optimist Club free for an entire year.

JULY

Neighbors/Friends/Coworkers Another opportunity to recruit Members who are right under our noses! Ask people close to you about joining Optimism during those summer barbecues or pool parties.

AUGUST

Educators With schools getting back into session, speak with teachers, coaches, and administrators at your local schools about joining your Club. These individuals interact with local youth on a daily basis and can be a great asset to your Club through these connections. All educators can join for \$30 for their first year!

SEPTEMBER

Friend of Optimists September is your last

chance of the year to get some new Members and hopefully reach Honor or Distinguished Club status! Consider reaching out to local businesses, community leaders, speakers at your meetings, or anyone who says they “don’t have enough time to volunteer”. Friend of Optimists support your Club financially, but many also eventually become active Members!



WIN A CLUB GRANT IN THE 2019

Reel OPTIMISM

— VIDEO CONTEST —

The sixth annual Reel Optimism video contest will allow adult Optimist Clubs and Junior Optimist Clubs to submit videos with the chance to win a \$1,500 Club Grant. Using the creativity of Club Members, partners and community resources, Clubs are asked to create a short video that illustrates the topic: **“100 Years of Optimism.”**

Contest Categories:

- “100 Years of Optimism” – Adult – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually celebrates our centennial year. Submissions by adult Clubs only.
- “100 Years of Optimism” – Youth – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually celebrates our centennial year. Submissions by Junior Optimist Clubs only.

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!

Contest Dates:

- February 16 – April 20, 2019
Members and Clubs submit videos on www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism following the submission guidelines.
- May 11, 2019
Finalists in each category will be announced and voting will be opened to the public.
- May 31, 2019
Public voting ends.
- June 1, 2019
The videos receiving the most votes in each category will be announced. All Reel Optimism video submissions will be shown at the 2019 Optimist International Convention in Louisville. 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: www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism



AN OPTIMIST HELPS FEED AN ARMY

Submitted by: Larry Warrenfeltz, Optimist Club of Pensacola-North, Florida

Harvey. Irma. Maria. Florence. Michael. Like every resident of hurricane-prone regions, Optimists who live in the U.S. coastal states along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf Coast know: when it comes to hurricanes, it's not if but when. One Optimist turns "know" into, "do."

Those who've rebuilt their homes and lives after a hurricane agree; the most welcome and revered people in the days after landfall are the thousands of convoyed electrical workers who arrive from all over the U.S. and even Canada. Only when the power comes back on, can the real work begin.

Fortunately, track forecasting and emergency planning have tremendously improved since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Now, an army of power company workers and their equipment are pre-staged near the projected landfall in the days before – ready to roll as soon as the roads are safe. Before Michael smashed into Florida's Panhandle on October 10, 2018, Gulf Power moved battalions of trucks and linemen into Pensacola, staging at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds. Throughout history we've seen the truth of the saying, "An army travels on its stomach." Peter Nowak (member and past-president of the Optimist Club of North Pensacola) runs Nowak Enterprises, Inc. Nowak owns/operates six area McDonald's. Pete volunteered his restaurants and employees to help Gulf Power feed the army.

At 3 a.m. on the day of landfall, and daily for seven straight days, Nowak employees made hundreds of breakfast sandwiches and deluxe breakfasts. Pete delivered them to Gulf Power's operations center each morning at 5:30. On the day after landfall on Mexico Beach, as the convoy was ready to move, Team Nowak started at 2 a.m. and made 2,500 breakfast sandwiches and 1,500 hash browns. At 5 a.m., Pete and his staff delivered all to the thousands of linemen assembled at the fairgrounds.



Characteristically, Pete passes the credit for the feat to his co-workers.

"It's just great to know we can be relied on when needed, and that we're part of the team."



Oratorical World Championships Contest Rule Change

The Optimist International Board of Directors has been listening to concerns from Districts about the new rule implemented this year that mandates each District winner compete in person at the designated locations for Oratorical World Championships.

After much discussion at the Board meeting on November 30, 2018, the Optimist International Board of Directors decided to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee for Oratorical World Championships and Scholarships to recommend enhancements going forward with a report to the Board in March 2019. In the meantime, to allow Districts more time for transition and to allow for the Ad Hoc Committee's report, the Board passed the following: **Effective October 1, 2021, all District winners will compete at the Oratorical World Championships in person at the designated locations.**

Visit www.optimist.org/scholarships for Planning Guides, forms and updated information.



RINEYVILLE OPTIMIST RODEO

Submitted by: Larry Fohl, Optimist Club of Rineyville, Kentucky



Yee-haw! The Rineyville Kentucky Optimist Club completed their 25th annual fundraising Rodeo on August 10-11th, 2018. Over 3,500 attended the two night event which was the largest turnout ever. “We need more bleachers,” said current club president Roy Bennett after scanning the Saturday night crowd.

The Rineyville Club, chartered in 1973, didn't really have a dependable fundraiser its first twenty years of existence. In 1993, then president, TR Smallwood suggested contracting a rodeo. Held the second weekend in May at the Hardin County Kentucky Fairgrounds for the first 21 years, the rodeo quickly established itself as the club's most dependable and sometimes only annual fundraiser.

The event has become an annual happening, looked forward to by those in Hardin and surrounding counties. **“We are seeing young adults with small children coming to the Rodeo that we remember seeing at our earlier Rodeos as children themselves,”** says current Rodeo Chairman, Rick Tharpe. Tharpe goes on to explain that one of his favorite parts of the Rodeo is the involvement of youth in running it. “This year four different youth organizations worked the event to raise funds for their team/club. We have had Boy Scouts, cheerleaders, our Junior Optimist Club and sports teams of all sorts assist with the operation of the Rodeo. We also have youth groups such as the 4-H and youth riding clubs that perform during the halftime shows.”

“This is a major logistical effort for a club our size,” says Tharpe. “We start visiting sponsors six months or so before the event date and the pace doesn't slow until a month or so after the last bull ride of that year's rodeo.

It is a real bonding event for the members. They all pull together to make it happen. There are a few members we only see at the Rodeo. It's almost like a reunion with them and past members who come out to support the club and see old friends.” Tharpe also cannot praise enough the businesses and organizations of Hardin County that sponsor the Rodeo. Many of them have contributed all 25 years. “We delivered plaques this year to our long running sponsors to show our appreciation. At every Rodeo's beginning, a Member welcomes the crowd, explaining what Optimist International is, who we are, and what the profits of the event go to. They also recognize whatever youth groups are participating in the event and thank our sponsors.” Larry Fohl, Club Secretary says that the speech may not get as many cheers as the Barrel Racers but it does let those attending know how we support the youth of Hardin County and the purpose of the event.

Like all long running events, the Rodeo has evolved. Four years ago the decision was made to move it from May to August due to declining attendance. “We also have contracted with three different Rodeo organizations over the years and are currently with Lone Star Rodeo out of Crofton, Kentucky. Our biggest concern as with most outdoor events is the weather. Overall, we have been fairly lucky with just two Rodeos being severely impacted by rain. We hold it on the event dates come rain or shine,” says Tharpe. “One year we were all wet and up to our knees in mud. We didn't make much money that year. Rain and the threat of rain holds down the crowd.”

“Twenty five years is a long time,” says long time member Paul Chenault. **“In the past few years we have recruited several good young members who work hard at the Rodeo. I'm glad to see these younger members. I've singed the hair off my knuckles for years at that grill. Hopefully, with their help, I can retire from grilling and we can keep this thing going another 25 years!”**



PROMISE YOURSELF IN LOUISVILLE!

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

JUNE 30-JULY 3, 2019 | GALT HOUSE HOTEL

START PLANNING NOW

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FOR CONVENTION!

The Convention housing and events will take place at the Galt House Hotel, 140 North Fourth St. Louis, Louisville, KY 40202. To book your reservation go to the housing section of the convention page of the website at www.optimist.org/convention.

As long as there are sleeping rooms available, the deadline to make your reservation is May 21, 2019.

The sleeping room rates are \$129 plus taxes & fees per night for up to 4 people in a room in the Rivue Tower for a Deluxe Guestroom; \$175 plus taxes & fees per night for up to 4 people in a room in the Rivue Tower for a One-bedroom Waterfront Balcony Suite; \$152 plus taxes & fees per night for up to 4 people in the Suite Tower for an Executive Suite; \$257 plus taxes & fees per night for up to 4 people in a room in the Suite Tower for a Two-bedroom Waterfront Balcony Suite.

TOP 5 REASONS to Attend the 2019 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 are conducted on a variety of topics to educate you on many areas of interest within the organization and provide the chance for personal development.

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 four-day conference schedule allows time to come early or stay after to experience the excitement of the host city of Louisville: visit Churchill Downs, the Louisville Slugger Museum, and much more!

4 Prepare!

Club and District officers 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 and District.

5 Network!

Visit our Expo Hall to 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 www.optimist.org/convention. Save money by registering before the "early-bird" deadline, which is May 1. All other pre-registrations must be postmarked or faxed no later than May 31 and received at the International Office by June 9 to receive the advance registration rate. Registrations received after June 9 will be processed at the on-site rate.

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



TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

- Attend the First Timers Orientation on Saturday, June 29, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Be punctual. We value your time. Unless something unavoidable occurs, our events begin and end on time. We do not have assigned or priority seating, so please plan to arrive at workshops and meetings a little early to reserve your spot and get settled.
- Don't be shy. Introduce yourself to other Optimist members. You will find them to be valuable resources for you both at the convention and in the future. Chances are, whatever challenges you are facing on your Optimist Club, one or more of your fellow Optimist members has been there before. Name badges give you a wealth of information to help you get to know fellow convention attendees, including their name, District, and role within the organization.
- Introduce yourself to Optimist International staff and the Executive Board. If the staff or an Executive Board member does not find you first, please introduce yourself to them. You will see them all around the convention. Please don't hesitate to ask for assistance.
- Ask questions. Don't worry about asking a "rookie" question. Many of the most important issues facing Optimist International today are raised by new members who are taking a fresh look at situations confronting our organization.
- Take what you learn home. Optimist International encourages convention attendees to report at your next board meeting what you learned at the convention to any of your fellow Club members who couldn't attend. Sharing what you learned will help your team grow.
- Complete the post-convention survey. The Optimist International staff will e-mail a link to an anonymous post-convention survey. We appreciate your comments and reviews all of the feedback given. As time and resources allow, staff implement suggestions that improve the event.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Optimist Leadership Academy and Lunch
 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Club Trainer Class

1:00-5:00 p.m.

Training
 Club Presidents-Elect
 Lieutenant Governors-Elect
 Club Secretary-Treasurer Designate
 District Secretary-Treasurer Designate

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office
 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Vice Presidents-Elect & Governors-Elect Training and Lunch
 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. District Trainer Class
 2:00-6:00 p.m. Credentials Registration
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Reception: First Timers Orientation

4:30-6:45 p.m.

Foundations William H. Harrison
 Society Recognition Dinner

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies
 (Optimist International & Junior Optimist International)
Entertainment, Parade of Flags, National Anthem, Introductions
Live Timeline
President Rebecca Butler Mona

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

7:00 a.m. Leadership Development Packet
 Pick-up/Drop-off
 7:00-7:30 a.m. Training for Volunteers Working
 Registration
 7:00-8:00 a.m. Faculty Meeting
 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office
 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Registration, Credentials & Youth Info
 Community Involvement Expo
 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. District Chair Designate Training
 Club Fitness Advisors
 Membership
 New Club Building
 Leadership Development
 8:30-12:00 p.m. Workshops: 8:30-9:30 a.m.;
 9:45-10:45 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 8:30-11:30 a.m. Vice Presidents and Governors Training
 1:30-5:00 p.m. Workshops: 1:30-2:30 p.m.;
 2:45-3:45 p.m.; 4:00-5:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 1

7:00-7:30 a.m.

Training for Volunteers Working
 Registration

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Certified Trainer Meeting

7:00-8:15 a.m.

Club President-Elect &
 Lieutenant Governor-Elect Breakfast

7:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Leadership Development Packet
 Pick-up/Drop-off

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Office

7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Registration
 Banquet Coupon Exchange
 Community Involvement Expo

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Town Hall Meeting

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Vice Presidents' Council

10:00-10:45 a.m.

Workshops: 9:00-10:00 a.m.; 10:15-11:15 a.m.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Appreciation Luncheon

Theme: A Day at the Derby

12:45-1:45 p.m.

Credentials Desk

3:00-5:00 p.m.

1st Business Session
Keynote Speaker: Monica Hardin
Awards Presentations
Resolutions Report & Voting

(continued)

5:30-6:30 p.m. Reception: Foundations President's Club Members (by invitation)

DISTRICT DINNERS

8:00-11 p.m. Trivia Night

TUESDAY, JULY 2

7:00-8:30 a.m. Old Timers Breakfast

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office

7:45-8:45 a.m. Credentials Desk

8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Banquet Coupon Exchange

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 2nd Business Session

Introductions

Resolutions Report & Voting

Bylaws Report & Voting

Keynote Speaker: Jeff Hanson

1:00 p.m.

Workshops: 1:30-2:30 p.m.;

2:45-3:45 p.m.; 4:00-5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Junior Optimist International President's Banquet
(contact josh.castleberry@optimist.org)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

9:00-11:00 a.m. Closing Business Session

2017-18 Distinguished Governors

Awards Presentations

Keynotes: President-Elect Adrian Elcock

President Rebecca Butler Mona

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 2020-2021 Vice Presidents Orientation

5:30-6:30 p.m. Reception: Pre-President's Banquet

6:45-8:45 p.m. President's Banquet

8:45-11:00 p.m. President's Ball



CLUB WITHIN A CLUB



A **Club within a Club** is a way for your Club to expand their outreach and strength in their community. A **Club within a Club** 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 Club Within a Club 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.

For rules and FAQ, please visit www.optimist.org

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



Recruit a Teacher for \$30

The Recruit a Teacher incentive is still active!

From October 1st, 2018 until September 30th, 2019, 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 Members of all professions are important to Clubs, so why the emphasis on teachers? A strong connection with local schools is extremely beneficial for your Optimist Club. 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.

Who Qualifies?

Anyone who works at a school interacting with children.

Please contact the Membership Department with any questions:
(800) 500-8130 ext. 226 or e-mail danny.schuette@optimist.org.

This promotion is for new Optimist Members only. It 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.

HOMECOMING INCENTIVE

Valid October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

International President Rebecca Butler Mona has established a special incentive for the 2018-2019 Optimist year to help Clubs reach out to past Optimist Members who are not currently Members of a Club.

These past Members may be recruited into ANY Optimist Club, whether it be the Club they were originally part of or a different Club for only \$30 in international dues for their first year back! The \$15 registration fee is also waived! Members may not be dropped and re-added within the same Optimist year.



Club Grant for NEW Junior Optimist Clubs!

The Optimist International Foundation is continuing the special grant program incentive for the 2018-19 Optimist Year, to help new Junior Optimist Clubs conduct a service project!

Junior Optimist Clubs with 25 Charter Members or more built between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019, are eligible for a \$100 Club Grant. Any JOI Club served by the Optimist International Foundation is eligible to apply.

Contact junioroptimist@optimist.org for more information.

As of December 30, there are 12 new Club Charters and 240 new Charter Members!

Acworth Elementary Junior Optimist Club, Georgia

Allies Elementary Junior Optimist Club, Colorado

Belair High School Junior Optimist Club, Jamaica

Bennett's Mill JOI Club, Georgia

Extreme Junior Optimist Club of York Castle High School, Jamaica

Hamilton Junior Optimist Club, Wisconsin

Junior Optimist Club of Forest Glade, Ontario

Launch High School Capstone Junior Optimist Club, Colorado

Logan County High School Junior Optimist Club, Kentucky

London JOI Club, Ontario

Thrive Academy Junior Optimist Club of Chula Vista, California

Wakulla C.O.A.S.T. Charter Junior Optimist Club, Florida



Help the Junior Optimist International Board to reach their goal of 1,500 new Charter Members for the 2018-19 year!

Visit www.junioroptimist.org for more information about building a Junior Optimist Club in your area.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST CONVENTION

June 30 - July 2, 2019 • Louisville, Kentucky



The Junior Optimist International Convention is an annual gathering of students from the United States, Canada, Caribbean and around the world! The Convention is composed of several activities throughout the three-day event: team building, business sessions, guest speakers, group projects, workshops and recreational activities! While topics range from leadership skills to life lessons, all aspects of the Convention allow students to learn more about themselves and motivate them to be the best they can be! Join us in Louisville, Kentucky for the 2019 Junior Optimist International Convention!

Visit www.junioroptimist.org for more information.



Junior Optimist Makes a Difference

Submitted by:
Madison O'Hara Wickham,
2016-17 Junior Optimist International President



To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to the presence of trouble. These are the principles that I was able to integrate into my character, thanks to the experiences and opportunities Junior Optimist and Optimist International have allowed me to have. I have been an Optimist Member for approximately a third of my life, and I could not be more grateful for it. From working at the local level to serving as the International President I have gained so many phenomenal tools and skills that have better prepared me for my experience at the University of California San Diego, as well as my life in general. College is not an easy transition, especially when you first take the step to becoming a functioning and productive member of society. Yet, thanks to all of the guidance, advice, challenges and friendships I created through Optimist, things became less intimidating. This organization not only allows the youth to help their communities and those around them, it aids in their Members improving and discovering themselves. None of what I have accomplished would have been possible without the Junior Optimist Organization being a part of my life. I will never forget all of the people I have met, and all the lessons I have learned.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Optimist Club members enjoy many benefits from their involvement in club activities in addition to contributing to make their community a better place to live. Along with a positive attitude, lifelong friendships and engagement in the community, members also add meaning and purpose to their life as well as a sense of accomplishment.

Many years ago, the Optimist International Leadership Development Committee designed a program to recognize and celebrate the personal accomplishments our members achieve in the course of their participation in club activities. The Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) program offered 10 levels of activities that benefited the member who participated as an active club member. Each level was celebrated with a colored backing for their Optimist pin, and Level X members were recognized on stage at the International Convention and received a special backing for their pin.

The 2012 Optimist International Leadership Development Committee reviewed the PGI program. The program had been of great benefit to clubs and members. It rewarded people for their participation in club activities. At the same time, there were requests from membership for a professional development program that could be shown to benefit our members in ways that would enhance their value as members of the community workforce. After several years of development the Optimist Professional Development Program (PDP) was rolled out on October 1, 2016.

PGI and PDP co-exist side by side as separate programs. The accomplishments performed in the PGI are not transferable to the PDP and the accomplishments performed for the PDP are not transferable to the PGI. All accomplishments for the PDP must be done after October 1, 2016. So what is the difference?

PGI recognizes “personal growth” with categories like attendance, membership growth, knowledge of the organization, personal growth (through training modules), and communication skills.

PDP recognizes “professional development” with categories like project management, marketing, continuous improvement, organizational knowledge, and communication skills. While there is some overlap especially in the last two categories, the emphasis in the PDP is on developing professional skills for someone that translate to work outside of the Optimist Club.

In consultation with the ad-hoc young members committee it was decided that the PDP would recognize achievement with certificates that could be displayed in the workplace rather than pin backings.

To learn more about the two programs and to find online tracking forms please visit: www.optimist.org

“ Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow. ”
– Leon Brown



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 2018-19 District Leadership Development Chair Dropbox folder by October 5, 2019. 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 the convention.
- 1st place will receive a paid convention registration, one-night hotel stay at convention and travel for one person to the convention.



OPTIMIST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Each year in February, Members who have been recognized as either a Distinguished Club President or a Distinguished Lt. Governor in the prior year or a Member who has been recommended by either a Vice President, Vice President-Elect, Board Member, Governor or Governor-Elect are invited to submit an application and an essay for the Optimist Leadership Academy.

The Optimist Leadership Academy (OLA) is a joint project between the Leadership Development Committee and the Candidate Qualifications committee. It was designed to recognize Members for their leadership skills and to develop future leaders for our organization.

The Optimist Leadership Academy consists of a full day training session held in conjunction with the Optimist International Convention. The training focuses on developing high-level leadership skills that can be used both personally and professionally.

Members' submissions go to a Selection committee comprised of members from both the Candidate Qualifications and Leadership Development Committees that chooses the Candidates for the next Leadership Academy.

If selected, the only other commitment that Optimist Leadership Academy members are asked to complete is to recommend other potential candidates to be considered for the Leadership Academy.

If you are one of "the best of the best" or want to recommend someone who is, or if you need more information, please contact the Leadership Development department at Optimist International leadership@optimist.org.



Upcoming Junior Tour Events

January 19-20, 2019 – Junior Players Golf Academy Open
Wexford Golf Club, Hilton Head, South Carolina

March 2-3, 2019 – Greg Norman Champions Golf Academy Open
Barefoot Resort, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Scholarship Opportunity Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team

This special award recognizes the academic accomplishments of (4) four junior golfers ages 16-18. Golfers must submit an application and essay to qualify. This year's essay topic: "What are the greatest dangers to the game of golf losing popularity and what ideas would you have to reverse that trend?"

The Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Community Service Award recognizes (1) one junior golfer based on academic accomplishments and their community service. The (5) five selected golfers receive a \$1,000 scholarship, an exemption into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship, complimentary registration fees, a commemorative plaque and introduction on stage during the Opening Ceremony at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.

For more information, visit www.optimist.org/golf or call (314) 881-1307.

Optimist International Tournament of Champions

The 14th Annual Optimist Tournament of Champions is highly ranked and known for its strength of field. The Tournament held at ChampionsGate in Orlando, Florida is for top finishers of the summer Optimist Championships, winners of Optimist District qualifiers, golfers who are included in the Top 100 overall *Golfweek* and Junior Golf Scoreboard rankings and other top junior golfers from around the world. This junior championship tournament is a 36-hole event for male and female junior golfers ages 11-18. The Tournament of Champions is ranked by the Junior Golf Scoreboard, *Golfweek*, and included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry process.

BOYS 16-18

Liam Shinn (Norcross, Georgia)	74-67 (141)
Shuang "Tony" Liu (Lake Mary, Florida)	74-70 (144)
Keita Okada (Japan)	75-73 (148) *
Ngai Si (Bradenton, Florida)	75-73 (148)

BOYS 14-15

Kyo Morishito (Japan)	72-73 (145)
Gregory Solhaug (Norway)	77-69 (146)
Ryan Sangchompuphen (Denver, Colorado)	72-75 (147)

BOYS 11-13

Reggie Zhu (China)	72-73 (145)
Juleon Habib (Tarpon Springs, Florida)	75-71 (146)
Maxmilian Jelinek (Port Saint Lucie, Florida)	73-75 (148)

* Scorecard Playoff

** Won Sudden Death Playoff

GIRLS 14-18

Ka Yee Kwok (Bradenton, Florida)	75-69 (144) **
Susan Xiao (Clermont, Florida)	76-68 (144)
Thin Wai Khaing (Myanmar)	75-69 (144)

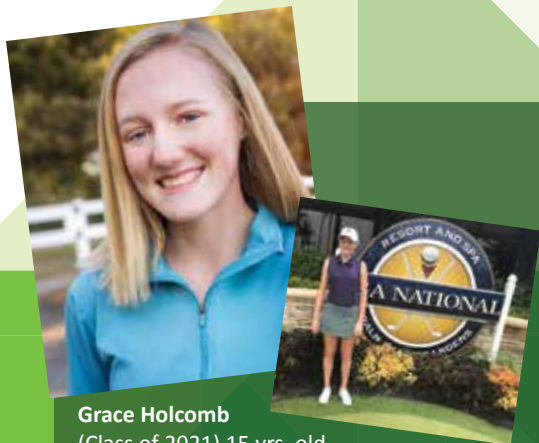
GIRLS 11-13

Mi Li (Orlando, Florida)	75-73 (148) **
Tina Jiang (Clermont, Florida)	75-73 (148)
Valeria Ramirez (Bogota, Colombia)	73-81 (154)



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

THANK YOU to Srixon for the continued partnership supporting the Optimist Junior Golf Program.



Grace Holcomb
(Class of 2021) 15 yrs. old.

A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

Following is just one of the many stories of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.

Thank you again to the SC Optimist for giving Grace this amazing opportunity and help to make it happen. Please thank everyone with your organization in SC for making this happen for Grace. She had a smile on her face all week.

Grace logged 4 days of golf, walked over 60,000+ steps, played the longest and most awesome golf courses yet... made friends, had fun, kept her composure & strength up the entire time. This being a 15 -18 year old tournament she kept up with the 18 year olds she played with. There were only about 34 girls around Grace's age out of the 138. She got to watch and learn from the soon to be college golfers she played with. Great experience all around. She didn't want to leave today.



Optimist Junior Tour Green Valley Ranch in Denver, Colorado

A 36-hole event that was shortened to 18 holes because of Sunday's snow. 86 junior golfers, from Colorado and 7 other states and in 5 age/gender divisions. At stake were individual trophies and 23 exemptions.

The winners are:

- Boys 16 – 18** **Brandon Bervig** (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
- Boys 14 – 15** **Tyler Tyson** (Arvada, Colorado)
- Boys 11 – 13** **Camden Braidech** (Scottsdale, Arizona)
- Girls 14 – 18** **Morgan Ryan** (Centennial, Colorado)
- Girls 11 – 13** **Rylee Salome** (Los Lunas, New Mexico)



Optimist Junior Tour Junior Players Golf Academy Open at Orange County National in Orlando, Florida

It was a beautiful weekend at Orange County National where 49 golfers, from 11 states and 10 countries competed for the 15 exemptions.

- Boys 16 – 18** **Tommy Lamb** (Cary, North Carolina)
- Boys 14 – 15** **Diego Passos** (Orlando, Florida)
- Boys 11 – 13** **Jack Snedaker** (Lake Mary, Florida)
- Girls 14 – 18** **Mackenzie Gallagher** (Orlando, Florida)



The exemptions in the Junior Tour Events advance golfers to the 2019 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships to be played at the Trump National Doral Resort in Miami, Florida, home of "the Blue Monster".



CHILDHOOD HEALTH & WELLNESS

In response to requests from Optimist Clubs and recognizing the broad range of childhood health-related issues, Optimist International and our Foundations are excited to announce the Childhood Health & Wellness Program.

The Childhood Health & Wellness Program will build on the highly successful Childhood Cancer Campaign to expand our impact. Clubs and Districts will now have the opportunity to initiate projects and services to improve the quality of life for children in their communities across a broader spectrum of needs.

Childhood Health & Wellness will include four focus areas (not limited to the examples below):

- **Healthy Lifestyles** (Child Obesity, Healthy Eating, Physical Fitness, Happy Heart Advice, March of Dimes)
- **Chronic Diseases** (Childhood Cancer, Juvenile Diabetes, HIV, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle Cell Anemia)
- **Mental Health** (Depression, Bullying, Abuse)
- **Disabilities** – Physical, Intellectual & Developmental (Autism, Special Olympics)

As of January 1, 2019, the Optimist International Foundation will accept contributions for Childhood Health & Wellness with the intent of creating a grant program. Contributions previously made to the Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC) will be used to support Childhood Cancer.

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) had previously introduced a Childhood Health and Wellness initiative called "Spread Relief". Canadian Clubs must apply through the Canadian Foundation, please visit www.ccof-foec.org.

There is an exciting opportunity to start supporting the Childhood Health & Wellness Program to serve more children in our communities!

Centennial Coin

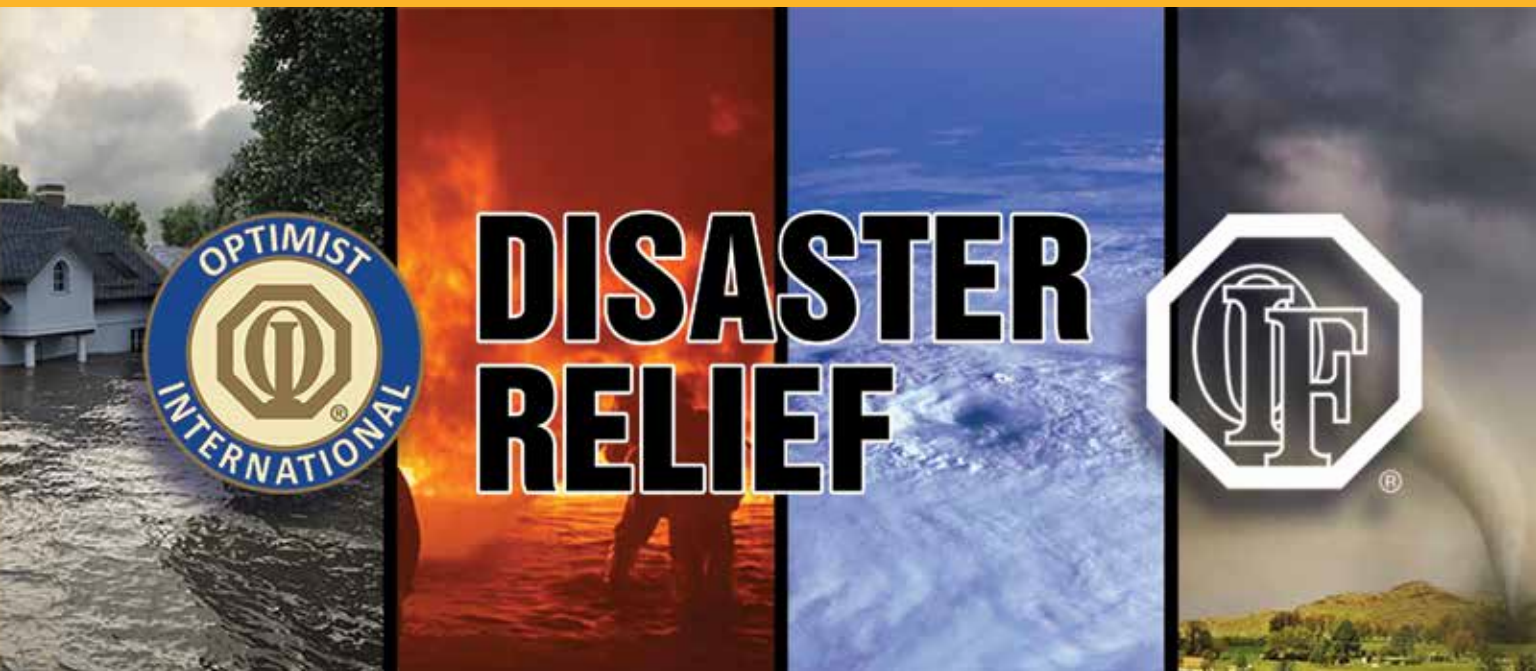
In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Optimist International, the Optimist International has available a special commemorative coin to celebrate the milestone.

The coin, with the 100th anniversary logo on one side and the Optimist International Foundation logo on the other, highlights the partnership between the two organizations in furthering the mission of Optimism worldwide.

That partnership has helped children and communities in thousands of ways: from scholarships to support of Junior Optimist International, to Club Grants and so much more.

The proceeds from the 100th anniversary coin will be dedicated to the start of the new Childhood Health & Wellness effort. The funds will help launch this new Optimist International Program. This high-quality keepsake will be a 1.5-inch bronze coin, in a blue velour box. The donation will be \$100 (USD).

The coin will be available beginning January 15, 2019, and quantities are limited. For more information and to order, please visit www.oifoundation.org or call (800) 500-8130.



The Optimist International Disaster Relief Fund assist clubs working in their communities to that have been affected by terrible natural disasters.

**They are Optimists In Action to get a community back on its feet.
Help with their great work by donating to the Optimist International Foundation
Disaster Relief Fund.**

More information available at www.optimist.org or www.oifoundation.org



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Optimist International Foundation is accepting applications for the 2019 Club Grant Program. Grants will be awarded to Clubs that start a new project that impact the youth in their community. The Club Grant Program provides 20 matching grants of \$500 to Optimist Clubs.

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

• **Northeast Memphis Optimist Club, Memphis, Tennessee:** Held a Bike Safety Rodeo for over 600 elementary children in an impoverished neighborhood of Memphis.

• **R-A-K Optimist Club of Lincoln, Nebraska:** Had children color quilt squares, then made those squares into blankets. Those blankets then were distributed out into the community to homeless individuals, with a focus on children.

• **Mother of Tomorrow Optimist Club, Jinja, Uganda:** They started "Give a Rabbit for Healthy Nutrition" project. Provided breeder rabbits to families to supply needed meat for meals to the poor.

• **Playa Vista Optimist Club, Marina Del Rey, California:** Started a "Tools4Schools Backpack" project. They provided backpacks filled with needed supplies to children that were homeless in the surrounding community, partnering with local shelters and social agencies.

Seventeen (17) 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 www.oifoundation.org.

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 2019 and March 2020.
- 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 3, 2019

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

MARCH 8, 2019

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 17, 2019

Winners are notified and asked to identify someone to receive a check at the International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION CLUB GRANTS PROGRAM

Big news! As part of its commitment to help the Canadian Optimist Clubs to help Canadian children, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation has improved the Club Grants program. From now on, your Club may be granted up to \$1,000 for one of your community projects. You have until March 31, 2019, to apply. Visit www.ccof-foec.org to download the application form.

Examples of how the Optimist Clubs used their grants last year:

- **The Club Optimiste de St-Isidore 2017**, Ontario, paid for adapted swimming classes for children with autism. It is difficult for autistic kids to follow regular swimming classes. A large percentage of these children are very afraid and anxious of water. Still, knowing how to swim may save your life and is an important skill that needs to be acquired. Thanks to the CCOF Club Grants, the Club could pay for the registration fees and transportation of four additional children.

- **The Club Optimiste de Hammond**, Ontario, provided their local elementary school under-desk pedallers to help children with ADHD keep their focus in class despite their need to move and their anxiety. Thanks to the CCOF Club Grants, they were able to buy two pedallers that will help these children experience more success in school and build their self-esteem.



- **The Club Optimiste Beacon Hill**, Ontario, organized Christmas help for local low-income families and bought clothes and gifts for about 75 youths. This year, thanks to CCOF Club Grants, they will help 10 more children for whom they have bought toys, winter boots, coats or books.

- **The Club Optimiste de St-Hubert**, Québec, has created a project to help the local elementary school to buy the needed music instruments for their orchestra. The CCOF Club Grant has been part of their fundraising and will allow the students discover some hidden talents and encourage the pursuit of music studies in the jazz program at the local high school.



DIANNE JOSLING

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is proud to welcome on its board of directors Dianne Josling, in replacement of Thomas McNaught who unfortunately passed last summer. Congratulations for your nomination and welcome on board!

Dianne Josling's Optimist life began in 1991 as a Charter Optimist in her home town of Mitchell (West Perth), Ontario. The Optimist Creed shapes her approach to every aspect of each day.

Her Optimist service includes: Distinguished Club President (2002-03), Governor of Midwestern Ontario (2004-05), as well as several District Chair positions

and membership on Optimist International Growth and Activities Committees. For the past five years, she has been serving young people and their families all over Canada through membership on the Advisory Committees for the Childhood Cancer Campaign and its successor, the Spread Relief program.



Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

692	Mark Davis	700	Michael Greenwood	707	Johanne Guay
693	Michael E. Koenig	701	Kent Dicken	708	Yvette Plante
694	Angela Burlton (In Memory)	702	John T. Blackwell	709	Lucie Massé
695	Paul-André Parent	703	Perry Ford	710	Christopher D. Cox
696	Robert Perron	704	Beth O'Brien	711	Karl Frydryk
697	Alain Gailloux	705	Richard Marcil	712	Stan Fronzaglia
699	Ginette Quesnel	706	Stanley Clarke Wyllie	713	Tom Frazier (In Memory)

Top Ten as of September 30, 2018

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Marcia Aurand	\$46.16
Alabama-Mississippi	Tolanda R. Beal	\$21.16
Pacific Central	Joan D. Estepa	\$19.80
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$19.74
Capital-Virginia	Barbara L. Grizzard	\$19.58
Colorado-Wyoming	Ronald V. Cisco	\$18.36
New York-New England	Bruce Maclain	\$18.00
Iowa	Dave Phillips	\$17.77
Pacific Southwest	T G Thomas	\$17.00
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$16.02

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Cherryl R. Thames	\$48,650.47
Iowa	Dave Phillips	\$41,726.49
GATEway	Connie J. Webb	\$29,147.05
Colorado-Wyoming	Ronald V. Cisco	\$28,836.20
Arizona	Marcia Aurand	\$28,298.34
Ohio	William R. Able	\$27,420.50
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$25,866.13
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Carmen Bakken	\$24,098.79
South Texas	Carol Hodges	\$23,897.39
Alabama-Mississippi	Tolanda R. Beal	\$22,261.10

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Pacific Northwest	Earl W. Pollock	\$86.95
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Doug Kirby	\$53.86
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$40.96

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$44,487.20
Québec Center	Joanne Guay	\$28,037.59
Southwestern Ontario	Edward Stevens	\$26,391.50



Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018, 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

CALIFORNIA SOUTH

Alma E. Vinson

MICHIGAN

Optimist Club of Clinton Township Area, MI

NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND

Francis P. Remillard

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

MICHIGAN

Bay City Noon Optimist Club, MI

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Optimist Club of Brodhead, WI

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

INDIANA SOUTH

Optimist Club of Plainfield Inc., IN

QUÉBEC WEST

Christian Bourassa

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA

Optimist Club of King George, VA

COLORADO-WYOMING

Optimist Club of Tamarac Denver, CO

Optimist Club of Wheat Ridge, CO

NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND

Sunrise Optimist Club of Lockport Inc., NY

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Optimist Club of Paso Robles, CA

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Joanne F. Ganske

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

ARIZONA

Optimist Club of Yuma, AZ

IOWA

North Scott Optimist Club, IA

NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND

Optimist Club of Manchester, NH

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN &

NORTHERN WYOMING

Optimist Club of Wolf Point, MT

ARIZONA

Marcelino Hernandez

CARIBBEAN

Rose M. Samuels

Optimist Club of Kingston, JA

CENTRAL ONTARIO

Optimist Club of Port Colborne-Evening

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA

Donna J. Suggitt

ILLINOIS

Optimist Club of Granite City, IL

IOWA

Optimist Club of Ankeny, IA

NEBRASKA

Dale L. Beckmann

NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND

Lighthouse Optimist Club of Barker, NY

NORTH CAROLINA EAST

Jerry and Libbie Medlin

PACIFIC CENTRAL

Christine D. Fountain

Optimist Club of San Carlos-Belmont, CA

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Canton County Optimist Club, CA

Optimist Club of Van Nuys-Airport, CA

QUÉBEC CENTER

Johanne Guay

QUÉBEC EAST & ACADIE

Bertrand Lavoie

QUÉBEC WEST

Thérèse Tremblay

SOUTH FLORIDA

Optimist Club of Sebring, FL

SOUTH TEXAS

Optimist Club of Houston-Aldine-Noon, TX

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN &

NORTHERN WYOMING

Ruth A. Boysun

Elizabeth Cheavins

James Rehm

CARIBBEAN

Merlene Hercules

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA

William M. Reilly

GATEWAY

Catherine M. Robinson

Charles E. Romano

INDIANA NORTH

West Jay Optimist Club, IN

MICHIGAN

Peggy L. Hall-Davenport

James B. Walker

North West Oakland Optimist Club, MI

Western International Optimist Club of Detroit, MI

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO

Elaine McLaren

NEBRASKA

Diane K. Siefkes

NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS

Lynne M. Martin

NORTH CAROLINA EAST

Linda M. Watson

PACIFIC CENTRAL

Mary E. Boglarsky

James Halderman

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Annette Smith

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Optimist Club of California City, CA

Warner Center Optimist Club of Woodland Hills, CA

QUÉBEC CENTER

Club Optimiste de McMasterville

André Léveillé

Luc Nadon

QUÉBEC SOUTH

Claude Audet

Michel Champagne

SOUTH TEXAS

Jym D. Chenault

TENNARK

Cynthia A. Hobson

WEST MISSOURI

Kip Yoss

Optimist Club of Osceola, MO



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



"My husband keeps me in the dark.
He keeps forgetting to pay the electric bill."



"If you're my best friend,
you'd loan me 20 bucks."

Man: Yesterday, all I could see were purple spots.

Woman: Did you go see the doctor?

Man: No, I just saw purple spots.

The nurse said to the doctor, "There's an invisible man in the waiting room."

The doctor replied, "Tell him I can't see him now."

Did you hear about the crook who stole a calendar?

He got twelve months.

The 16th tee featured a fairway that ran along a road. The first golfer in a foursome teed off and hooked the ball. It soared over the fence and bounced onto the street where it hit the tire of a moving bus and ricocheted back onto the fairway.

As they all stood in amazement, one of the golfer's friends asked, "How did you do that?"

The golfer shrugged. "You have to know the bus schedule."

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2018-2019



Topic
**"Is There a Fine Line Between
Optimism and Reality?"**

ORATORICAL CONTEST

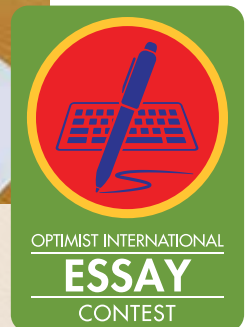
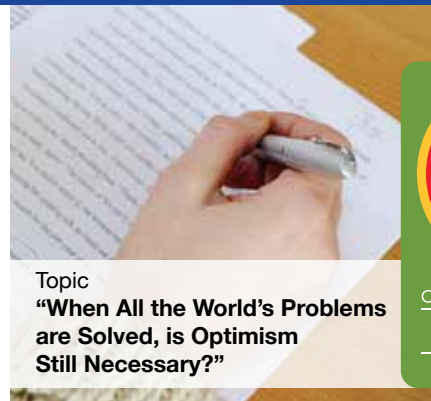
Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500
Third Place: \$1,000
**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the
World Championships level**

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

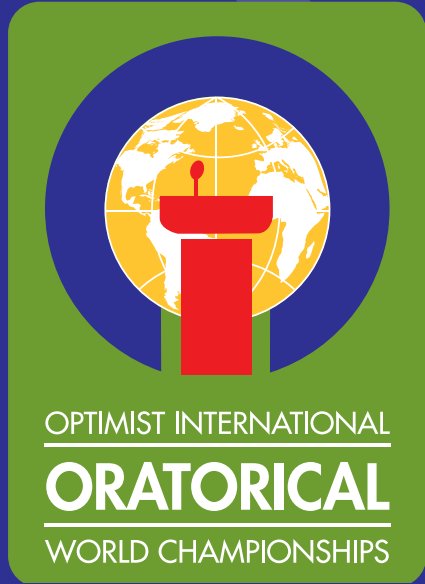
One District Scholarship of \$2,500

KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org/scholarships



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
ORATORICAL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

JOIN US IN
ST. LOUIS

July 18-20, 2019
Saint Louis University
St. Louis, Missouri



Visit optimist.org for more information.