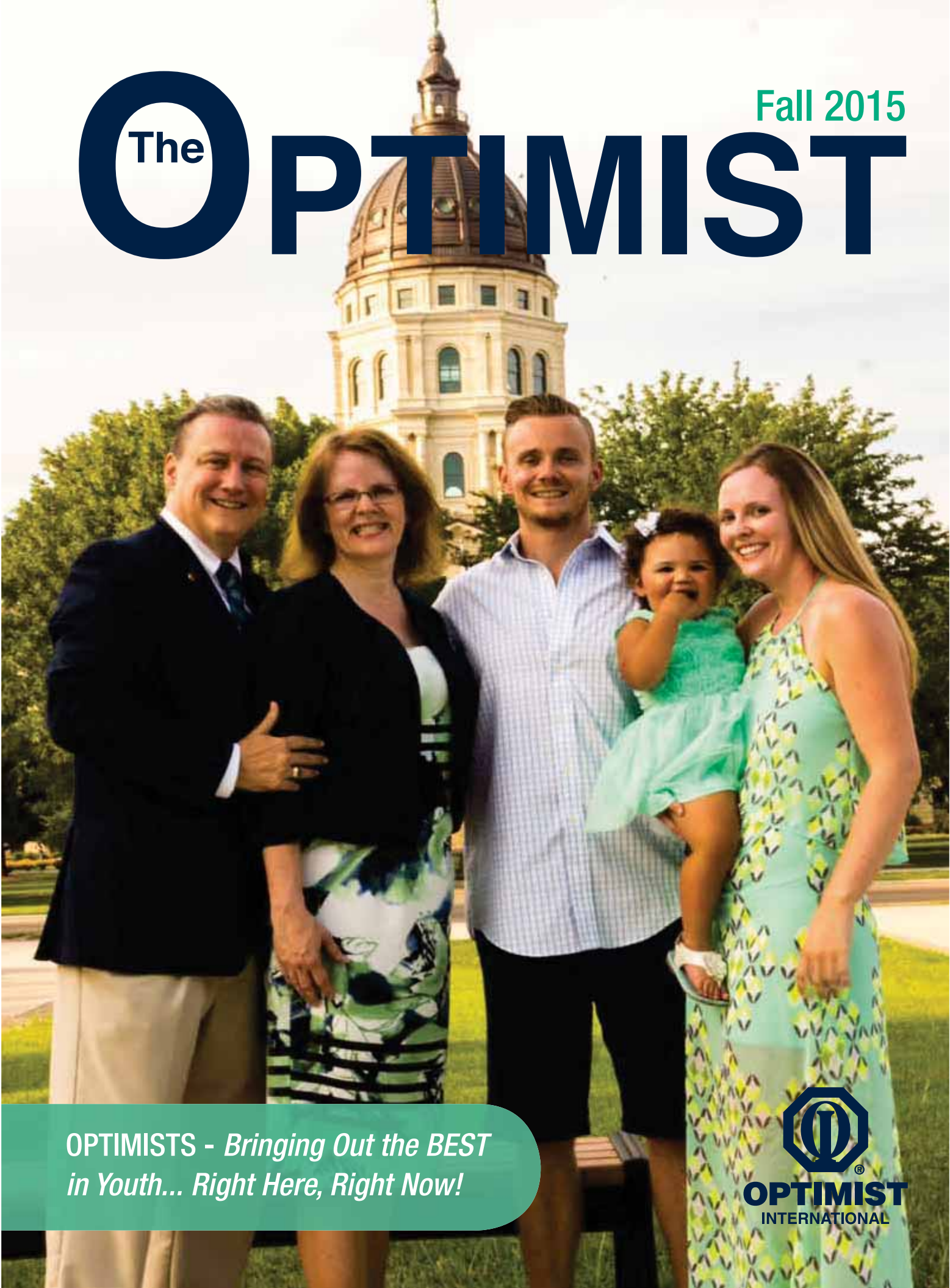


The OPTIMIST

Fall 2015



*OPTIMISTS - Bringing Out the BEST
in Youth... Right Here, Right Now!*



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL



2015-16 PRESIDENTIAL INCENTIVES

VICE PRESIDENTS:

- Vice President's "Growth Surge" Award
- "Right Here, Right Now" Award

DISTRICT GOVERNORS:

- "Press On to the Greater Achievements" Award
- Governor's "Growth Surge" Award
- "Fast Break" Award (First Quarter)
- "Bringing Out the Best in Youth" Award

CLUBS, LT. GOVERNORS & MEMBERS:

- "Bringing Out the Best in Communities" Award
- "Bringing Out the Best in Our Clubs" Award
- "Club Renaissance" Award
- "Bringing Out the Best in Ourselves" Award

DEPENDING ON THE AWARD, RECIPIENTS HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN THE FOLLOWING:

- Registration to the 2016 Optimist International Convention in Quebec City
- Dinner with President Dave & First Lady Shawn during the 2016 Optimist International Convention in Quebec City
- Trip to the PGA National Resort & Spa in November 2016

For full details and listing of the 2015-16
Presidential Incentives, visit
www.optimist.org/incentives.

MISSION STATEMENT
By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

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

PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humanity, 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 Optimist International President Dave Bruns takes office October 1. To learn more about Dave's life as an Optimist, see page 2.

BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OURSELVES RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

PRESIDENT DAVE BRUNS



Optimism - Our Inheritance and Our Legacy

Dave's father, Louis (Louie), grew up in Kansas City and served in the United States Army-Air Corp during World War II. While attending the Army School for Special Services at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, Louie met a local girl, Irma Morris, and the two were married in December 1943. Their first child, June Elizabeth, was born in Virginia in October 1944. Following the war, Irma and Louie moved to Kansas with their infant daughter.

A few years later, Louie joined the Kansas City, Kansas Optimist Club—one of the original eleven clubs that helped establish Optimist International—and Irma joined the Opti-Mrs. organization. Sadly, June Elizabeth passed away in January 1957 after a courageous battle with Lupus. "Although they never got over the loss of their only daughter, mom and dad remained Optimistic and their desire to help children increased," Dave says. Irma and Louie were blessed with the birth of their first son, Louis Edward (Ed) November 15, 1956, and Dave was born on September 17, 1959.

Irma joined Louie as a Member of the Kansas City, Kansas Optimist Club in 1987, shortly after delegates at the International Convention in Montreal voted to admit women into membership. She went on to become the first woman to serve as President of her Optimist Club. Moreover, Irma and Louie lived to see both of their sons become Governors of the Kansas District—Dave in 1997-98 and Ed in 2003-04—as well as to see Dave become an International Vice President in 2004-05.

Following in his parents' footsteps, President Dave and First Lady Shawn have also raised an Optimist family. Their son, Nate—who is now a personal trainer and business owner in Kansas City—and daughter, Elise—who recently returned to Kansas after receiving her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Emory University—also participated in numerous Optimist activities growing up. In fact, both of their children have made lifelong friends who they met participating in youth activities at Optimist International Conventions. In July, Dave and Shawn's first grandchild, Emory, attended the International Convention in New Orleans as a 15-month-old. Look for Emory in Quebec City and at other future conventions!

"What I learned from my parents growing up is that our Optimist Clubs are a great inheritance we receive from prior generations, and they are a valuable legacy we will leave to future generations," Dave says. "Because of this, I sincerely believe that all Optimists have an obligation to leave our Clubs better than when we found them. If we do so, we can be assured that Optimist Clubs will be around to help children 50 years from now just like they were there to help my brother and me 50 years ago."

In many ways, Dave Bruns has been an "Optimist" his entire life. Although Dave did not officially become a Member of the White Lakes Optimist Club of Topeka, Kansas until he was 23 years old, he was born into an Optimist family. In fact, one of his earliest memories is of sitting on Santa Claus' knee at an Optimist Club Christmas Party when he was a small child growing up in Kansas City. "Of course, it did not dawn on me until several years later why Santa looked so much like a local dentist who belonged to the Club," Dave recalls.

An Optimistic Path

In 1981, Dave received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Kansas (KU) and he received his Juris Doctorate from the Washburn University School of Law three years later. It was while working as a Summer Orientation Leader at KU that Dave met Shawn, an engineering student. During law school, a Topeka attorney, Bob Keehan, asked Dave to join the White Lakes Optimist Club in 1983.

After passing the Kansas bar examination in 1984, Dave joined the Topeka law firm of Goodell, Stratton, Edmonds and Palmer, LLP. At the law firm, he practiced in the state and federal courts in Kansas and Missouri. Two of his senior partners, Jerry Goodell and Bob Edmonds, were Optimists and encouraged Dave to assume a leadership position in his Club. The law firm also encouraged him to involve himself in pro bono legal services. As a result, Dave received the Pro Bono Award from the Legal Aid Society of Topeka in 1995 in recognition of his donation of legal services to low income and elderly clients.

In 1999, a year after Dave served as a Distinguished Governor of the Kansas District, he was one of three candidates whose names were submitted to Kansas Governor Bill Graves for possible appointment to a position as Judge of the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas. Dave remembers being nervous about going to the Governor's office in the Capitol for his interview.

However, Dave was relieved when Governor Graves told him that his first experience as a public speaker was as a participant in an Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Salina Optimist Club. "Although I had never met the Governor before, it was great to share this common bond," Dave says.

Dave was not only appointed to serve as a district court judge in Shawnee County, but he was subsequently retained in office by the voters of Shawnee County three times. As a trial court judge, Dave presided over a variety of cases, with the largest being a multistate class action lawsuit involving one of the largest management-led buyouts in corporate history. He believes his greatest accomplishment, however, was bringing together officials from a number of organizations in the community—including the courts, municipalities, school districts, the Topeka Youth Project, Optimist Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs and others—to establish the Topeka-Shawnee County Youth Court. In Youth Court, students serve as lawyers, bailiffs, clerks, and jurors in real cases involving minor legal violators. "From this experience, I learned the importance of forming partnerships with others who are passionate for helping youth," Dave says.

Dave currently serves as a Judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals. In this capacity, he reviews criminal and civil cases from across Kansas. Each year, Dave hears about 250 cases and writes about 80 opinions. "In my profession as a Judge, I have seen so many cases in which children are the innocent victims of crime or neglect," Dave says. "Although it is easy to get depressed about the problems in the world, it is refreshing to know that there are still people like Optimists out there to help in our local communities. And, I have no doubt that the work performed by Optimist Clubs is needed more today than at any point in our history."

One Family, One Mission, One Goal: Right Here, Right Now!

In his travels, Dave has found that Optimists are "hard-working, dedicated people who are willing to give their time and talent in service to others." He has also found this to be true of our Junior Optimist Members. "Wherever we go across the Optimist world, Shawn and I feel like we are with family," says Dave. "Regardless of where we live or what our titles may be, all Optimists share core values that are based on the words of the Optimist Creed."

As Members of the Optimist family, we share one mission—"Bringing out the Best in Youth, our Communities, and Ourselves." Likewise, Members of the Optimist family also share one goal—to have 100,000 Members by our 100th anniversary in 2019. As Dave points out, "It is what these numbers stand for that is really important." Just think of the millions of more children that we can serve as Optimists when we reach this goal. To reach our goal, however, each and every Optimist must put his or her words into action—Right Here, Right Now!

At the same time, Dave believes that we should be thankful for and support the approximately 70,000 adult and 15,000 Junior Optimist Members we already have. "If those first eleven Clubs that formed Optimist International in 1919 knew that we now have 85,000 adult and youth Members, they would say 'That's fantastic!' Let's not focus on the negative, but on the positive. By working together, Optimists and Junior Optimists can achieve so many great things."

One of the best ways to convince others to join us is if we share our "Optimist Story"—the reason "why" we believe that the service performed by Optimists is still important in today's world. As Simon Sinek states in his book, *Start with Why*, "People don't choose your organization because of what you do. They choose it because of WHY you do it." As Dave suggests, "Let's tell others about how rewarding it is to help put a smile on the face of child or how heartwarming it is to see the tears of joy in the eyes of a parent whose child we have helped."

Our Commitment to One Another

As we look forward to the greater achievements of the future, President Dave asks that all Optimists join him in committing to do our very best to:

- Tell our Optimist Story to others—Right Here, Right Now!
- Support our existing Optimist Clubs by inviting others who share our mission to join our ranks—Right Here, Right Now!
- Help neighboring communities by starting new Optimist Clubs—Right Here, Right Now!
- Work hand-in-hand with our Junior Optimist Clubs—Right Here, Right Now!
- Share the "JOJO!" we have found in helping children by starting new Optimist Youth Clubs—Right Here, Right Now!
- Make our Youth Programs the best in the world—Right Here, Right Now!



- Support our Foundations to provide more youth scholarships—Right Here, Right Now!
- Make Optimist International the best service club organization in the world—Right Here, Right Now!

Ultimately, as President Dave reminds us, "If we can look ourselves in the mirror and honestly say we have done our best with the talents we have been given, we will be successful—as will the entire Optimist team."

OPTIMIST CLUBS BRING OUT THE BEST IN THE 2015

Reel OPTIMISM

VIDEO CONTEST

For the first time ever, the Reel Optimism contest was open to both Adult and Youth Clubs. Clubs were asked to submit a short video that finished the sentence, "Optimists bring out the best..." Adult and Youth Clubs could submit a video of three minutes or less in the Club Showcase category or they could enter a shorter clip into the 30-Second Challenge category. Optimist International received many wonderful submissions that illustrate how Clubs and Members bring out the best in their communities and the best in themselves.

For two weeks in May, Optimist Members, Youth Members and the general public voted for their favorite videos by sharing on Facebook and Twitter and by casting their votes on the Optimist International website. In total, the Reel Optimism videos were viewed more than 13,000 times. The videos were also shared 7,400 times on Facebook and Twitter and received 4,600 vote button clicks.

During the recent Optimist International Convention in New Orleans, the winners of the 2015 Reel Optimism video contest were announced. Congratulations to the following Clubs:

- BEST OVERALL AWARD WINNER** - Canyon Crest Academy JOOI Club, CA (\$1,000 Club grant)
- CLUB SHOWCASE WINNER** - Optimist Club of Birmingham, AL (\$500 Club grant)
- 30-SECOND CHALLENGE WINNER** - Charlotte-Mallard Creek Optimist Club, NC (\$500 Club grant)
- CLUB SHOWCASE YOUTH WINNER** - West Forsyth High School JOOI Club, GA (\$500 Club grant)
- 30-SECOND CHALLENGE YOUTH WINNER** - M4 JOOI Club of Yuma, AZ (\$500 Club grant)

The two raffle winners are the Optimist Club of Chatham, ON (adult) and the Club Octogone Laterrière, QC (youth). Both of these Clubs win a \$250 Club grant.



Briana Kaler of the Canyon Crest Academy JOOI Club described their overall win as a great way to spread their optimistic message to "stay JOOIful always." She added, "Creating the video was a great bonding experience for my JOOI Club. It offered an opportunity for us to collaborate, highlight each other's strengths, and engage all JOOI Members in our Club while creating a memento of our JOOI filled year." The Canyon Crest Academy JOOI Club plans on using their grant money for upcoming year's new service project ideas.

Daniel Mallard of the Charlotte-Mallard Creek Optimist Club expressed the video development process as an "absolute blast." The Club's team consisted of young Optimists that dedicated over 90 hours of hard work to the project. "Our young Optimists really enjoyed this competition and we think it was a perfect way to get them involved and enjoy being a part of MCOC and Optimist International as a whole," said Mallard.

The Optimist Club of Birmingham video focused on the changes taking place at Huffman Ball Park, a complex in the community. The video was a great way for the Club to illustrate the story of the park and view the positive results of the Club's dedication to bettering the community. Nancy Ryan, representative of the Club, stated, "Through the experience of creating the video and working alongside the coaches and parents, our Club began a new partnership with them and over 200 boys who are benefiting from our contribution to Huffman Youth Sports." Club grants are funded through the generous support of the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

To view the videos for the winning Clubs, in addition to all other Reel Optimism submissions, go to www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism. Stay tuned for information about the 2016 Reel Optimism video contest.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BAY CITY NOON OPTIMIST CLUB FOR BEING NAMED THE 2013-14 OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR!

The Bay City Noon Optimist Club conducted many successful community service projects, such as the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission monthly birthday party, Adopt-A-Highway, children's movie/food drive, and "Covering the Basics," a donation program started by the Club to fund raise for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. The Club participates in many Member Development Programs, such as PGI, and sends multiple Members to International Conventions, Leadership Summits, and District Conventions. The Bay City Noon Optimist Club has planned many successful N.O.W. meetings resulting in five new Members last year, and sponsored the Midland Optimist Club on December 17, 2013.

The Bay City Noon Optimist Club consists of the following Members: Carole Archangeli, Susan Arnold-Birch, Charles Beyer, Natalie Beyer, Corinne Bloomfield, Rhonda Bovin, Moira Branigan, Krystal Casey-Danielak, Kendra Christensen, Ed Clements, Sandra Covaleski, Dennis Cull, Ronald Cunningham, Sandy Dabrowski, Robert Davidson, Richard Donahue, Ginger Drzewicki, Bethany Dutcher, Gary Ebel, Philip Engelhardt, Leslie Eschenbacher, Ken Feldt, Debra Anne Fisher, Randolph Fisher, Jerrold Ford, Lois Ford, Lisa Marie Forrest, Delores Furland, Roberta Gellise, Tyler Gerard, Melissa Gleason, Tina Goodman, Guy Greve, Karen Haight, Lori Holsapple, Matthew Jenkins, Linda Kahler, Randall Kienbaum, Kathy King, George Klepser, Mary Klepser, Brian Krause, Darlene Krumpolz, Robert Lachance, Pati Lalonde, Marilyn Lenox, Jerome Lombardo, Diane Marter, Richard Marter, R. James Merrill, Marlene Mika, Brandon Minuth, Dana Morville, Karen Morville, Angel Moore, Norman Moore, Philip Paulus, Sandra Paulus, Rosie Peters, Sue Platt, Becke Popour, Cheryl Ratynski, Richard Reed, Patrick Rokosz, Carrie Sue Rostollan, Dana Russell, Matt Schmidt, James Schumacher, Mary Jo Sacratan, Randy Shelagowski, Rob Short, Steven Skodak, Barbara Skowronski, Matt Skowronski, Thomas Smyczynski, John Spencer, Roberta Spencer, Deborah St. Hilaire, Mary Stagay, Jeffrey Staudacher, Jo Ellen Strieter, Alishya Thomas, Polly Thomas, Diane Thompson, Lee Thompson, Becky Tillman, Kellie Treichel, Carol Van Der Harst, Debbie Van Idour, Alicia Wallace, Valerie Welch, Kirsten Wellnitz, Sarah Wohlschlag, Kate Young, & Deb Zarazua

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE OTHER 2013-14 FINALISTS:

- Optimist Club of Searcy, Arkansas
- Kalamazoo Breakfast Optimist Club, Michigan
- Foothills-Marana Optimist Club, Arizona
- Noon Optimist Club of New Castle, Indiana

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD IS PRESENTED ANNUALLY TO THE MOST OUTSTANDING CLUB IN EACH REGION BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

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

OVERALL OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR

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

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

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

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

NEWS & VIEWS

Clubs Have Pride with a Purpose

Has your Club completed successful programs and activities this year? Make sure to note them on the President's Pride Report, now available for 2014-15.

The President's Pride Report allows Club Presidents to play an important role in deciding the future of Optimist International's programs and community activities. The information obtained will be used for prospective grants and will help determine what programs will receive emphasis in the future. The President's Pride report is also a requirement for an Honor or Distinguished Club.

The report is available on the Optimist Leaders website. Go to www.optimistleaders.org, log in and click on "Reports" on the right side of the screen. On the next screen, select the "President's Pride Report." Under each question are boxes that can be checked to indicate that your Club participated in that activity. If your Club participated in an activity that is not listed, type a brief description in the box marked "Other."

One of the best parts of the President's Pride Report is that you can fill out the form as you complete the activities. Just go to the report, fill out the selected information as it happens and then hit the "Save" button. When you are filling in the dollar amounts, please round off to the nearest dollar and click the "Save" button or you will lose the dollar figure.

When the Club has completed the form by filling in the information for the entire Optimist year, an officer should click the signature button and the click "Submit." The form will be sent electronically to Optimist International. Please keep in mind that once you hit the "Submit" button, you cannot change or add any information to the report.

Hard copies can be printed from the "Forms" page of the Optimist website, www.optimist.org, and faxed or mailed to Optimist International. The deadline for online submission is September 30. However, hard copies of the report will still be accepted at the Optimist International headquarters after September 30.

If you have questions, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via email at programs@optimist.org.

2016 Leadership Summits/Regional Conferences

Optimist International is proud to announce Leadership Summits/Regional Conferences will be offered in the spring of 2016. The agenda will include new topics and updated information to make you, your Club, your District, and your Region successful.

Every Member is invited to participate in this exciting program developed for Optimist leaders! The training experience will provide attendees with knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to bring out your best leader.

More information will be included in future publications and on the Optimist website.



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 May 11, 2015 and July 31, 2015:

LEVEL VII		
Gayle A. Barr	MI	
Barbara Thomas	SC	
LEVEL X		
Melvin Bannister	SC	
Marino Garbin	SC	
William Glover	CALSO	
John Grover	SC	
Georgia Langhorst	CALSO	
Duane O. Lucca	CALSO	
Elaire Lucca	CALSO	
Linda Meyers	CALSO	
Tracey R. Palmer	SC	
Gary Sauer	CALSO	



The Big Picture – Made Even Brighter!

Submitted by Cyndi Kosinski, Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club

"There's no business like show business" and that continues to be the case for the Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club! As reported in the spring 2010 issue of *The Optimist*, the Club purchased their community's local movie theatre on December 1, 2009. The plan was to share profits from running the Town Theatre to area youth groups by saving a local business and offering a first-run movie venue. This plan has been a reality since 2010!

Taking on a project of this magnitude has not been without its challenges. The theatre, which was built in 1920, has a never-ending list of maintenance. The Club went straight to work making improvements to bring the theatre experience into the 21st century. Since purchasing the business, the Club has installed new sound curtains, replaced all of the seats, updated old film projectors to digital technology, installed a new surround sound system, brought in 3D capability, and introduced infrared technology for hearing impaired patrons.

The Club is quick to point out that none of these improvements would have been possible without financial support from the City of Chillicothe, the Chillicothe Development Company, area service clubs, merchants, and individuals. In addition to the amazing work of the employees, countless hours of service have been provided by Club Members and community volunteers from the small community of approximately 6,000. Now that's dedication!

Something even more amazing – the Chillicothe Optimists have managed to do all of this and give back an incredible total of \$46,000 to area youth organizations! The Club has been able to distribute money to nearly 40 partner groups including scout troops, youth groups, athletic teams, and community outreach programs. This 'profit sharing' has impacted more than 4,000 area youth!

How is the money distributed? Each year, the Club asks their Theatre Partner Groups to collect ticket stubs which are then collected, counted and assigned a monetary value based on the theatre's profitability. Once a year, during "Kids Count," each of the partner groups is

recognized and presented a check for their portion of the annual proceeds of the theatre.

The Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club has a new goal on the horizon.

They have been offered an amazing opportunity from an anonymous donor. If the Club can raise \$60,000 by December 2016, the donor will give them a matching gift of \$60,000! This money would enable the Club to do many things at the theatre, including paying off the mortgage and enabling the Club to give even more money to youth partners and impact more area youth. What an opportunity!

The Club is busy with many different fund raising ideas, and is nearly halfway to their goal. If you or your Club would be willing to help the Chillicothe Illinois Optimist Club reach their goal, please contact Cyndi Kosinski, President-Elect, at cyndikos@gmail.com, or go to their GoFundMe site at: <http://www.gofundme.com/vg9uzgg>.

Now that's a blockbuster!



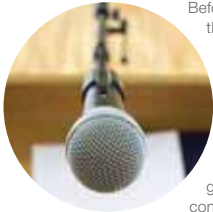


The Optimist Oratorical WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS CONTEST

The new Optimist Oratorical World Championships Contest will be June 23-24, 2016. Each Optimist District will have the exciting opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a \$5,000 scholarship. The winner of each Region (eight winners total) will compete with the winner from Saint Louis University's Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championships scholarship.

The participants of the Oratorical Contest will gain the following benefits:

- Empower youth to become effective communicators and leaders
- Provide a learning experience resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth
- Assist youth with the cost of higher education tuition
- Create a unique opportunity for youth to meet other young people from diverse backgrounds



- Promote the Saint Louis University campus and Saint Louis area to youth from around the world
- Help youth gain skills needed to become a confident public speaker

Topic for the contest is "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others," which promotes positive thinking

Before the new sector of the contest, the Optimist International Oratorical Contest averaged 18,000 entrants per year. Optimists in North America award nearly \$500,000 annually in scholarships with \$250,000 awarded in the current Oratorical Scholarship Contests at the District level. With corporate partners and foundation grants, this program will provide contestants at every level the opportunity to receive substantially more scholarship dollars beginning in the summer of 2016 and running annually.

The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International will be May 15, 2016. For more information, **contact programs@optimist.org**.

Saint Louis University is thrilled to partner with Optimist International to deliver this world class program. Saint Louis University has positioned itself as a leader in global citizenship and views the contest as a way to showcase the institution's commitment to being a global partner in the service of youth. The contest will be held in the Center of Global Citizenship located on the Saint Louis University campus.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY: CENTER OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The mission of the Center for Global Citizenship is to promote collaboration across the University to educate and engage the Saint Louis University community for global awareness, responsibility, and participation. The Center fosters the University's mission through teaching, research, and service activities that provide local, national, and global linkages.

The Center for Global Citizenship is a 70,000-square-foot center which brings the Cross Cultural Center, the Center for Service and Community Engagement, the Center for Intercultural Studies, and the Center for International Studies under one roof, and adjacent to the English as a Second Language Program, the Center for Sustainability and the Office of International Services located in Des Peres Hall.

The Center is available for events, both Saint Louis University sponsored and externally hosted, which support the mission to promote collaboration across the University to educate and engage the Saint Louis University community for global awareness, responsibility, and participation.

With nearly 1,000 students from more than 70 different countries, as well as nearly 350 students studying abroad in more than 15 different countries each academic year, the Center for Global Citizenship helps transform students into educated and knowledgeable members of the global community.



ORATORICAL CONTEST:

DIANA CARLIN

Diana Carlin will play an important role for the 2015-16 Optimist year. She is the Chair of the Optimist Oratorical World Championships Contest on the International Activities Committee. Diana has worked at Saint Louis University since 2011 as the Associate Vice President for Graduate Education. She holds an undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Kansas and a doctorate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She solely published one book and co-wrote two other publications. Before joining the Saint Louis University community, Diana was the co-owner and vice-president of Clark Publishing Co., Inc. in Topeka, Kansas. Clark Publishing Co. was a niche publisher of secondary textbooks in drama, journalism, communication, and debate. She has given numerous presentations, including the keynote address for the University of Michigan-Flint Summit on Campus Internationalization. Her honors and awards include the Woman of Distinction Award from the University of Kansas and Kansas



Speech Communication Association Hall of Fame Inaugural Class Inductee. Diana is most excited about the uniqueness of the innovative partnership between Optimist International and Saint Louis University. Diana states, "Saint Louis University's mission is to globalize. This partnership brings students together for an educational experience through technology." Diana believes public speaking is one of the most important skills to teach a young adult. Diana explains "Public speaking is what most people fear most – it is more feared than death! It is important to get over the fear of public speaking at a young age." Her message to the Oratorical competitors is simple: **"You cannot practice enough. Your speech is a sincere conversation with the audience. Project your opinion and have an emotional connection with your words."**

ANNIE ROSENKRANZ

Annie Rosenkranz will also play a vital role in the Oratorical Contest at Saint Louis University. Annie became the Program Manager of the Center for Global Citizenship in 2015, previously serving as an International Counselor in SLU's Office of International Services. The Oratorical Contest will be held in the Center for Global Citizenship on the Saint Louis University campus. Annie is responsible for overseeing the Center's activities and working with academic and student development units throughout the university to develop programming that expands Saint Louis University's global activities on campus, in the community and throughout the world. Annie holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Global Development Studies from Grinnell College and is completing a Master of Public Administration degree from SLU. As an undergraduate, Annie studied abroad in Botswana, an experience that sparked her passion for international education, intercultural exchange, and global citizenship. She has gone on to work, volunteer, and travel across all seven continents. Annie believes the contest is a great opportunity for young adults to broadcast their view of the world. "No two opinions and views are the same. It will prompt high school students to organize their thoughts, prepare for all situations, take a stance, and to think globally," states Annie.



PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

SOPEN SHAH

Sopen Shah was one of the many children competing in an Optimist International Oratorical Contest in 2002. She vividly remembers traveling to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to compete. She felt very lucky to have qualified for the finals. Looking back on her experience, she is grateful for the opportunity to share her opinion and express her views in her speech. Sopen competed in the contest while in high school and realized the importance of learning to embrace public speaking for her future. The contest had a lasting effect on Sopen – it was an opportunity for a young woman to share her perspective and she felt her words mattered. Her list of achievements since winning the contest continues to grow. Sopen competed in the Miss Wisconsin Junior pageant and went on to place Top 5 at the national competition. She graduated from Harvard University magna cum laude with a degree in Social Studies, a mix of philosophy, economics, and political science. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, she interned at the Outagamie County District Attorney's Office, the New York Attorney General's Office, and McKinsey & Company, the world's top-ranked consulting firm, in Washington, D.C. After graduating, she worked as a consultant at McKinsey, and then as a defense financial analyst at Bloomberg LP, where she frequently appeared on TV and on the radio. Sopen was named Miss DC in 2011. She just graduated from the Yale Law School, where she was the Managing Editor of the Yale Law Journal. She also authored three articles that are forthcoming in various law reviews across the country. Public speaking has played a large role in each of her accomplishments. Upon hearing about the new regional/global addition of the Oratorical Contest, Sopen expressed her excitement for the contest and each competitor. Sopen said, "The larger scale increases the contest's appeal, and gives each competitor the opportunity to meet people from around the world. I firmly believe that we should pay just as much attention to academic competitions, such as public speaking contests, as we do to other types, and Optimist International's addition to the competition goes a long way toward making that happen."



Carol Haynes is honored to serve as the 2015-16 International Activities Committee Chair. Carol has lived and worked for most of her life in Barbados and considers herself a Caribbean woman. She is a past Vice-President of Optimist International and has enjoyed holding various Optimist offices. She is a medical doctor in Family Practice and has worked in the field of HIV since 1987. She was Chair of the Barbados HIV/AIDS Commission between 2001 and 2008. During that time, she served as Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on matters relating to HIV/AIDS. She has served on numerous local, regional and international Boards over the past twenty-five years, including a two year stint as Chair of the Board of the Geneva-based Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She serves on the Parochial Council of her church, St. Ambrose Anglican Church, in Barbados. She has recently been appointed to the Parliament of Barbados as an Independent Senator. Last but not least, she is a proud mother and grandmother.

For the upcoming year, Carol is most excited for the Oratorical World Championships Contest. "It will provide an opportunity for the International Activities Committee Members, as well as the Activities Committee Members at the District and Club level, to play their part in ensuring that this first World Oratorical Contest hosted jointly with Saint Louis University, engages Optimists from across all the Districts of Optimists International, providing valuable exposure to public speaking and educational opportunities." If she could give one piece of advice to each competitor, she would tell them to believe in themselves and to know that we as Optimists are interested in what each person has to say, Carol adds "Every competitor is equally important to Optimists and to the success of this competition." Along with establishing the new addition of the Oratorical Contest, Carol would like to achieve increased support for all the Optimist International Activities, including CCDHH and Tri-Star Sports.

CAROL HAYNES



FORMER ORATORICAL COMPETITOR NEIL PATRICK HARRIS



In an April 1992 article in *The Optimist* magazine, a 19-year-old Neil Patrick Harris talks about winning the New Mexico-West Texas District Oratorical Contest: "I think it's a great tool—a good way to accomplish something and hone a skill that may be something you can bank on a little bit."

Harris has had great success as an actor, writer, producer, director, comedian, magician, singer, and television host following the contest. He is well-known for his teenage role as the main character in *Doogie Howser, M.D.* (1989–1993) and was nominated for four Emmy Awards for his role as Barney Stinson in the television comedy series *How I Met Your Mother* (2005–2014).

For a different outlook on optimism, read his speech from 1986 to the right!

OPTIMISM, A WAY OF LIFE *By Neil Harris*

"Oh, great! Another optimism speech. I hate optimism... it's so happy and energetic. At least I don't HAVE to give one." Those words came out of the mouth of Scott Jenson. Scott was a 13-year old pessimist. Well, he wasn't really a pessimist; he just definitely wasn't an optimist. His appearance was okay, but the main thing that made him a pessimist was his attitude. He was always bored. He looked down on things... he even looked down on life.

The student who was speaking sat down, and Scott's teacher, Mr. Maddox, got up, grabbed a piece of chalk, went up to the blackboard, and drew a square with a cross in it. Scott shook his head and put it down on the desk, thinking, "Now, what does THAT have to do with optimism?"

Mr. Maddox turned and said, "I know what you're thinking. What does this have to do with optimism? Well, this window represents optimism. You can open a window and have a gateway to a happier life. If you are in a room that's dismal and lonely, you can sit and feel sorry for yourself. OR you can go to a window and open it, lean your head out, and smell the fresh air. You can look in the distance and see a rainbow."

Next, Mr. Maddox drew a squiggly line, and said, "This isn't just a squiggly line. It's a worm. And it isn't just ANY worm, it's a caterpillar. A caterpillar is one of the most optimistic creatures I can think of. He believes in himself and he believes in the future. He knows he's more than just a funny-looking worm and that someday he'll become a beautiful butterfly. That's optimism. Think about that!"

The bell rang, and all the kids trampled out of class, except Scott. He was sitting in his chair, deep in thought. His posture had improved a little, and he was smiling. There was a glint in his eye that gave him a happy look.

That afternoon Scott went home and into his room. Let me tell you... his room was the room of a pessimist. However, on this day, he cleaned it up, made his bed, took a shower and then sat down and began drawing on pieces of paper. At bedtime Scott's parents looked in and said, "What are those crazy pictures you've hung on the wall?"

Scott smiled and said, "This is a window, and this is a worm."

Throughout the next week, Scott's classmates gave their speech. On Friday Mr. Maddox stood up to announce the winners, but before anybody got an award, Scott raised his hand and said, "Mr. Maddox, may I give an optimism speech?"

Mr. Maddox looked astonished. He held out his hand, and Scott walked to the front of the room.

"You know, for the last five years or so, I've had a bad outlook on life. I'd get on the school bus and everyone seemed to be picking on me and disliking me. When I got to school, the students and teachers seemed to be avoiding me. The trees were glaring at me and the grass didn't look green. I always wished I could change things, but I never quite knew how. After Mr. Maddox spoke to us, I decided to give optimism a try, and hey, it worked! I felt better, and so I decided to continue trying. Over the past week things have begun to change. No one is really avoiding me. The trees are welcoming me, and the grass is growing greener on my side of the fence. I just want you to know that I'm trying, and I need a few friends. Thank you."

Mr. Maddox smiled the biggest smile he had smiled in a long time. And no, Scott didn't win an award for his speech, but he won something much more important, an optimistic attitude that changed his whole life. And maybe, just maybe, it could change yours, too!

THE NEXT GENERATION OF OPTIMISTS - MILLENNIALS WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY WANT, AND HOW TO ENGAGE THEM *PART 2: WHAT DO MILLENNIALS WANT?*

Written and Submitted by Theresa Jarratt, Clinton Township Area Optimist Club, Michigan District



It's important to not only know who Millennials are, but what they want in life. You need to have some basic information about what is important to them and you'll find that these values are similar to Members you are looking for in your organization.

Enjoyment – Millennials seek adventure, embracing spontaneity, and taking time for entertainment, especially with their friends and family. It's important to work hard to achieve goals and be successful. Life is exciting and energizing and they take it all in without question.

Independence – Millennials need to be able to get through things on their own and have the freedom to make their own choices and form their own opinions. In doing this, they become their own person.

Discovery – Millennials seek growth and adventure, they find it fulfilling to learn, explore, and become more aware of the world around them. They are inspired by what they learn and apply it to their own lives to become more open-minded and well rounded.

Learn how you can inspire innovation that attracts and keeps Millennials as Club Members, community leaders, and meaningful friendships for life in upcoming issues of *The Optimist*.

Giving – Millennials find it very rewarding to know that they have had a positive impact on the people in their lives and the world around them. They need to know that what they do matters. They believe helping others is the right thing to do and they make a conscious effort to devote themselves to making a positive difference.

Meaningful Relationships – Millennials want to feel loved and give love, give and take. They invest their time and energy in building strong relationships with their friends and family because they want to surround themselves with loyal dependable support systems. Connections and experiences they share are what make life worthwhile.

Accomplishments – Millennials want to be the best at what they do. They want to achieve the goals they set, open doors to new opportunities, get stuff done and get it done well.

Involvement – Millennials love it when they can take action and make an impact. When they think about what they want to do and who they want to be, they believe that becoming a trusted leader and a person who can solve problems is the best way to contribute in the world.

INSURANCE BASICS



OPTIMIST CLUB LIABILITY INSURANCE

All Optimist Clubs and Optimist Members in good standing with their Optimist International Dues receive Optimist Club Liability insurance for no additional charge.

The Optimist Club Liability Plan protects your Club from lawsuits resulting from bodily injury or property damage at Club-sponsored activities. This coverage provides not only peace of mind for your Club Members, but it also satisfies the need for proof of insurance required by many venues. A Certificate of Insurance evidences Liability coverage provided by the Optimist International Insurance plan. It is not unusual for the event venue or property owner to require a copy of the Certificate of Insurance be provided for each planned event.

It is important to note that coverage depends on the actual facts of each case and the terms, conditions, and exclusions of the policy.

Questions? Please contact Mercer Consumer at 1-800-503-9227. For Canadian Clubs, please call 1-800-363-7151.

OPTIMIST CLUB ACCIDENT MEDICAL INSURANCE

ALL OPTIMIST SPORTS CLUBS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PURCHASE THIS COVERAGE.

This coverage is structured to respond to individuals injured while participating in scheduled youth games and practice sessions.

With no deductible, and negotiated pricing, protection is benefit-rich at an affordable cost. High Limits of coverage are available upon request, and coverage extends for a one year maximum benefit period.

The Optimist International program includes a number of benefits not typically available in the standard marketplace, including: Dental, Prescriptions, Ground & Air Ambulance, Laboratory Tests, X-rays, Durable Medical Equipment, and Diagnostic Imaging. Plus, it offers the replacement of Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, and Contacts.

OPTIMIST CLUB DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE

Optimist International has provided its United States Clubs access to a customized Blanket Club Directors & Officers Liability program to protect Club Directors & Officers from liability resulting from decisions they've made on behalf of their Club. Cost savings have been negotiated for Optimist International Clubs in the United States.

Clubs in Canada have additional coverage of Abuse & Molestation, and Directors and Officers Liability included in the general policy at no additional cost to the Club/Member.



NEW COACH TRAINING FOR OPTIMIST CLUBS

Optimist International has teamed up with Coaching Coaches, LLC, to provide Optimist Clubs with access to the highly acclaimed Coaching Coaches online training programs for both volunteer coaches and parents who have children participating in youth sports. Optimist International is providing this service to its Clubs in order to elevate its standards in working with youth sports participants.

The selection of the Coaching Coaches training programs will not only help further educate its coaches and parents, but will help provide all children participating in an Optimist-sponsored program the best sporting experience possible. Education is the key to growth and Coaching Coaches prides itself on positively effecting change through a more educated coach and parent.

Bill Bommarito, President of Coaching Coaches, LLC said: "I am proud and thrilled about this new relationship with Optimist International. Together, we have set a new standard for how our children are coached and supported when playing youth sports. Optimist International is setting the bar on a national scale for how a youth sports program is positively delivered."

The online coach's training is filled with insightful tactics and strategies that will help any volunteer coach deliver an even more effective youth sports program.

For more information and details about discounted pricing for Optimist Clubs, visit Optimist.org/Coaches.



OPTIMISM SHOOK NEW ORLEANS

The International Convention attracted nearly 1,000 Optimists this past July. 2015 marked ten years after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which was the last time we embarked on this territory for the International Convention!



The event began with a small group of volunteers participating in service projects, one for Café Hope and another for Save the Children, on Tuesday and Wednesday.



A growing crowd arrived early for registration on Wednesday and Thursday.



An orientation session on Thursday morning for the First Timers and an afternoon packed with topnotch training for Optimist Leaders rounded out the early arrival events.



Let's not forget about the House of Optimism, which was open for all to see a myriad of vendors! The vendors included, but were not limited to, our Foundations, Quebec Convention Promotions and official suppliers, Shumsky and Ansell's.



Thursday evening, the Opening Ceremony was an event to remember featuring entertainment by the local area Louisiana Kids, the parade of flags, and introductions of the organization's current and past leaders. Inspiring words from the 2014-2015 Optimist International President Ken Garner and Junior Optimist President Javanni Waugh were also shared during the event.



On Friday, 2015-16 International President, David Bruns kicked off the day with a special training breakfast for Club Presidents-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect. The breakfast was followed by a menu of quality workshops for all Members continuing throughout the day. In between workshops, many visited the House of Optimism again to check their winning raffle numbers and visit with the vendors.



The First Business session was rewarding and informative as awards were presented and keynote speaker Dayna Steel stole the stage.



A second performance by the Louisiana Kids was enjoyed at the Appreciation Luncheon. The attendees of the Appreciation Luncheon celebrated Optimism to the Masked Mardi Gras theme and left in a second line parade.



On Friday evening, attendees enjoyed a little taste of New Orleans at the Jambalaya Cookout on Canal Street Wharf. A big shout out to the Louisiana Gretna West Bank Club for sponsoring this extremely popular event! Proceeds will be donated to the Optimist Oratorical World Championships Contest for scholarships to be awarded.

It wasn't all business on Saturday as the day started with lots of laughter and awe as the Crescent Circus performed at the Old Timers Breakfast.



The finale was the President's Banquet and Ball where many danced the night away to tunes played by our own Optimist DJ, Marino Garbin aka South Carolina District Governor.



What a great way to spend a few days away from home with your family - having fun, learning and sharing ideas with hundreds of Members of our Optimist Family - a true Optimist Experience!

The Closing session not only covered the bylaws report and voting, it also included the inspirational messages from our current and incoming International Presidents Ken Garner and David Bruns.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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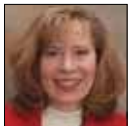
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Not pictured:
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South Florida



JOHN GROVER
South Carolina



FLORENCE JACKSON
North Florida



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Quebec West



MARIO TANGLAY
Quebec Central

MUST READ

A WORD OF Encouragement

Each year, many Optimist Clubs and Districts sponsor children and young adults at their local tournaments for a chance to compete and advance to higher levels. Following is an inspirational letter from Alexander Lowe, a past competitor of the Optimist Junior Tour Event held in Ft. Worth, Texas, to his sponsor and Optimist Club of Fort Worth Member Ron Traver. As he describes in his letter, a few simple words of encouragement can go a long way!



Dear Ron,

I just want to thank you for taking the time to offer me words of advice and encouragement. This past weekend was very challenging. Participating at the Optimist Tournament was very important for me because I wanted to represent The First Tee of Fort Worth. I also knew that my participation was possible because someone that I did not know had sponsored me and this meant a lot because otherwise, I could not have competed. After we met, I was very grateful to you, but I also became nervous.

Soon I realized that my performance was going from bad to worse, I was feeling sorry for myself and for all the people who had offered me their support. I felt like crying and giving up and I honestly don't know how I was able to keep going until the end.

After finishing hole 18, I could not wait to leave the golf course. I had such a deep sense of failure, I felt that no matter how hard I worked to improve my game, nothing was working and I was never going to change for the better. Once I arrived home I did nothing, but cry. I felt so embarrassed about my performance that I considered not going back the following day.

Later that night, I told my mother that I was not going back to the tournament on Sunday. She advised me about the importance of facing the challenges of life rather than running from them and told me that if I did not show up on Sunday I would regret it more than if I did so. For this reason, I decided to go back the next day and offer my best effort.

On Sunday right before my first shot, Mrs. Patsy Garner gave me words of encouragement, and it made a huge positive impact on me. It was a new day and I had a renewed sense of hope. Throughout the day I found myself at peace because of the simple fact that I was there giving my best instead of being at home feeling sorry for myself. I found a deeper respect for myself and I was happy to be there.

I want you to know that your sponsorship not only enabled me to participate in a tournament that my family could not have been able to afford, but it actually taught me that:

- It is better to face your fears than to run from them;
- The day after a failure is a new day, a new beginning, a new opportunity to do better; and
- Every person counts, every smile counts, every word of encouragement and hope that you can give to others counts.

I thank God, my parents, Kevin Long, The First Tee of Fort Worth, Mrs. Patsy Garner, you, Mr. Ron Traver, and The Optimist Golf Tournament for this great opportunity.

Respectfully,
Alexander Lowe



HAS YOUR CLUB OR DISTRICT RECEIVED FEEDBACK FROM A JUNIOR GOLFER? SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK TO BE PUBLISHED IN *THE OPTIMIST* VIA EMAIL AT MAGAZINE@OPTIMIST.ORG!



NOW IS THE TIME ...
**TO HOST
A NOW
EVENT!**

New Optimists Welcome (NOW) events are one of the most successful ways to recruit new members. What better way to start the Optimist year than by holding your own NOW event? Hosting a successful NOW function in the beginning of the year can give your Club the momentum it needs to continue growing and have a positive year.

But don't stop there! Holding multiple NOW events throughout the year could ensure your Club will continue to grow, and continue to bring out the best in even more kids. If holding more than one

NOW event seems like too much work, consider appointing a NOW Committee. The sole responsibility of this group would be to plan and put on successful NOW events throughout the year. With a committee devoted to planning NOW events, your Club could hold several of them during the year and have more attention to focus on serving the kids in your community.

For more information on the NOW program, contact the Membership Department at (800)500-8130 x227 or membership@optimist.org.

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INTERNATIONAL GOLFERS

HAVE STRONG SHOWING AT CHAMPIONSHIPS



It was another year of competitive play and great success on the golf courses at the 2015 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa. This year was the first year the Optimist Junior Golf went to three segments allowing more than 650 international junior golfers to compete for titles in seven age divisions along with approximately 1000 family members, 40 volunteers and 30 college coaches attending.

In addition to the winners above, three golfers made a hole-in-one:

Thomas Brumbelee (Canton, GA) – Palmer Golf Course, hole #10, par 3, 183 yards
 Maria Connelly (Waterville, Ohio) - Fazio Golf Course, hole #16, par 3, 145 yards
 Anna Eddy (Hilton Head Island, SC) - Fazio Golf Course, hole #13, par 3, 160 yards

Congratulations to the 2015 champions of the Optimist Junior Golf Championships! Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, parents, and participants for making the event a tremendous success.

NEXT ON THE OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF CALENDAR: TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The eleventh annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions will take place November 7-8, 2015, at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The tournament will feature top junior golfers eligible by way of their top finish at the summer Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, by winning their District qualifier, or by being a top-ranked national player. For more information, visit www.optimist.org/golf.

GIRLS 10-12

1. Ruo Ning Yin (China) – 70-74-73 – 217
2. Manuela Gomez (Colombia) – 72-73-75 – 220
3. Lauren Olivares (Mexico) – 75-71-74 – 220

BOYS 10-11

1. Casey Jarvis (South Africa) – 72-69-73 – 214
2. Eli Tran (Lubbock, Texas) – 74-71-71 – 216
3. Allan Kournikova (Palm Beach, Florida) – 72-72-74 – 218

GIRLS 13-14

1. Agustina Zeballos (Argentina) – 72-69-75 – 216
2. Lauren Miller (Niceville, Florida) – 71-76-71 – 218
3. Ashley Zi-Tong Au (Westerville, Ohio) – 69-75-76 – 220

BOYS 12-13

1. Akshay Bhatia (Wake Forest, North Carolina) – 69-67-70 – 206
2. Robert You (Nashua, New Hampshire) – 71-69-75 – 215
3. Jack Odonnell (Cohasset, Massachusetts) – 67-73-76 – 216

BOYS 14-15

1. Naraajie Emerald Ramadhanputra (Indonesia) – 70-74-72 – 216 *
2. Simon Estrada (Colombia) – 73-77-66 – 216
3. Andrew Oleary (Norfolk, Massachusetts) – 73-71-72 – 216

GIRLS 15-18

1. Mary Janiga (Wellington, Florida) – 73-72-71-70 – 286
2. Ariadna Fonseca (Venezuela) – 70-75-73-74 – 292
3. Annie Lacombe (Canada) – 74-71-78-72 – 295

BOYS 16-18

1. Adrien Pendaries (France) – 68-73-72-64 – 277
2. Davis Lamb (Potomac, Maryland) – 73-72-71-65 – 281
3. Dylan Naidoo (South Africa) – 74-70-69-72 – 285

*won the playoff



JOOI in the Big Easy

1ST PLACE BEST DRESSED: SELMA JOOI CLUB



2ND PLACE BEST DRESSED: BONITA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL JOOI CLUB



The 2015 JOOI Convention was held in New Orleans on July 6-8. The convention consisted of "JOOI's Got Talent" show, leadership training workshops presented by the JOOI Board of Directors, an election for the 2015-16 JOOI Board of Directors, and many more fun-filled activities.

The JOOI Presidential Banquet was well-attended with 280 JOOI Members and adult Optimist Members. Many adult Members holding incoming leadership roles were invited to the masquerade ball themed banquet where many youth Optimists and several adult volunteers were recognized for their leadership in making a difference in local communities and through leadership at the international level.

Anne Donkers, 2015-16 International Vice President of the Northeast & Great Lakes Region said, "Seeing the quality of the youth leadership was very inspiring and it encouraged me to pay closer attention to our District JOOI Clubs, which I feel sometimes get left out. It will also make me encourage JOOI Members to attend the JOOI convention. It is very important to have adults at the JOOI Banquet for the youth to see that the adults are interested and concerned with what they do."

Rebecca Butler Mona, 2015-16 International Board Director attended her first JOOI Banquet this year and described the event as inspiring. "Clearly, the future is bright in the hands of these young Optimist leaders, and I commend the Optimist Clubs who are supporting JOOI Clubs in their local communities. Partnering together, we can provide so many more opportunities to develop our young leaders and their passion for service - enabling us all to do more to bring out the best in children, our communities, and each other."

During the JOOI Banquet, Clubs participated in a Best Dressed competition. Congratulations to the 1st place Selma JOOI Club and the 2nd place Bonita Vista High School JOOI Club. The Selma JOOI Club received \$100 for Club services and the Bonita Vista High School JOOI Club received \$50. A special thank you to Sandy Cyphers, Youth Clubs Committee Member, for her generous donation to the Club winnings!



JOOI TEAMS UP WITH SAVE THE CHILDREN

On July 7, 150 JOOI Members and adult Optimist Members teamed up with Save the Children for a Get Ready, Get Safe, Prep Rally training and disaster kitting. Through this program, Optimists were trained to teach children in their communities the basics of preparing for emergencies and making a home plan. Immediately following the training, more than 150 Optimist adult and youth volunteers assembled 500 disaster supply backpacks. The packs consist of an emergency preparedness checklist, hygiene items, flashlight, journal, pen, identification bracelet and a comfort toy. These disaster kits will be distributed by Save the Children next month as part of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

During the unique training and service project, Save the Children taught about the unique needs of children in emergencies as well as key steps to take during emergency situations. Save the Children staff also trained middle school and high school aged youth Optimists on additional ways to be safety advocates within their communities.

Optimist International's Youth Clubs President Javanni Waugh, who attended the youth and adult Optimist International conventions in New Orleans from his home country of Jamaica, was especially impressed with his fellow Optimist youth Members' generosity and volunteer efforts. "As an Optimist, my personal mission is to bring out the best in children. This event was just one way that we can demonstrate how Optimists care about kids and how they put safety first."

For more information about Save the Children, visit <http://www.savethechildren.org/>.

JOOI LEGACY FUND

While promoting JOOI in New Orleans, the JOOI Legacy Fund pins sales reached nearly \$4,000! Thank you to the Optimist Members who bought a pin and donated. The JOOI Legacy Fund is a designated fund within the Optimist International Foundations. It is a discretionary fund to be used by the JOOI Board of Directors with \$1,000 spent annually for service outreach.



SAVE THE DATE

The JOOI Convention will be held July 3-5, 2016 in Quebec, Canada. Continue to check www.jooi.org and click on JOOI Convention for updates and more detailed information.

I BELIEVE IN

THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION!

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is proud to launch its 2015-16 annual campaign from October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Our goal is to raise \$500,000, which represents a donation of \$36.50 from each Optimist Member—the equivalent of A DIME-A-DAY.

Take this challenge as an additional way to support your Club, your community and your organization. As you already know, the Foundation is the only funder of the District scholarships for your Oratorical Contest, your Essay Contest, and your Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Foundation not only supports Optimist International activities such as the JOOI Clubs of your District and the Reel Optimist Contest, but also is a partner to the new Optimist International Regional/World Championship Oratorical Contest.

It is important to mention that the Foundation supports the Clubs community projects through the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Club Grant program. Congratulations to our \$500 grant winners, Optimist Club of Essex and Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks!

Along with the President of Optimist International, Dave Bruns, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation encourages you to meet this challenge RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

For more information about the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, visit <http://ccof-foec.org/>



OPTIMIST FOUNDATIONS

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Ed Finn
PRESIDENT



Don Sievers
PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2008-09



Melvin Bannister
DIRECTOR



Don Crall
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Sandy Williams
TREASURER



Steve Skodak
SECRETARY/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION

Lyle Merriam
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



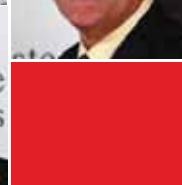
Yves Berthiaume
PRESIDENT



Vince Parker
DIRECTOR



Nina Strickland
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Raymonde Michaud
DIRECTOR



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

590	C. Douglas Holland	594	Tony Bell	598	William M. Fowler, Jr.
591	Richard Mercier	595	Jesse Bailey	599	David E. Bruns
592	Harvey Johnson	596	Joyce B. Krueger		
593	Myra K. Holmes (In Memory)	597	Ruth F. Nelson		

Top Ten as of June 30, 2015

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Kathleen Paulson	\$20.77
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$20.23
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$13.80
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$12.29
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$12.09
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$12.05
New Mexico-West Texas	Ludwig Bezemek	\$11.79
California South	Al Vinson	\$11.09
Colorado-Wyoming	Steve Gorrell	\$10.88
Kansas	Ruth Nelson	\$9.90

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Ray Finocchio	\$32,212.30
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$26,079.51
Iowa	Dave Mason	\$20,547.32
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$19,774.92
Colorado-Wyoming	Steve Gorrell	\$17,805.85
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$17,706.75
Arizona	Kathleen Paulson	\$16,058.45
Georgia	Joey Richardson	\$15,659.60
Kansas	Ruth Nelson	\$14,496.10
South Texas	Jose Montoya	\$13,019.85

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Vince Parker	\$64.27
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$16.67
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$11.86

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Vince Parker	\$56,622.76
Centre du Québec	André Picard	\$18,250.95
Southwestern Ontario	Gordon Brownlee & John Post	\$16,627.30



Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from March 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

COPPER BENEFACTOR - \$100,000
MICHIGAN
Karen E. Morville

GOLDEN BENEFACTOR - \$50,000
IOWA
Rebecca and Mike Mona
TENNESSEE
Janet N. Smith
Optimist Club of Knoxville, TN

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000
ARIZONA
Optimist Club of Tucson-Pueblo, AZ

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000
DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA
Optimist Club of Richfield, MN
IOWA
Optimist Club of Underwood, IA
MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Shakespeare, ON
NORTH FLORIDA
Optimist Club of Cocoa Beach, FL
NORTH TEXAS
Optimist Club of Fort Worth-Aerospace, TX
OHIO
William Stone
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Optimist Club of Meridian, ID

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000
ATLANTIC CENTRAL
Optimist Club of East York, PA
CALIFORNIA SOUTH
Charles and Norma Lehman
IOWA
Optimist Club of Kalona, IA
KANSAS
Michael and Sherry Ramzy
NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Optimist Club of Charlotte-Mallard Creek, NC
OHIO
Elen S. Brautigam

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000
ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
James R. Miner
Janet N. Smith
ALBERTA-MONTANA-SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Marilyn Bushell
Optimist Club of Saskatoon-Hub City, SK
CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Brooke E. Johnson
COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Lakewood-Sunrise, CO
INDIANA SOUTH
Kathryn Underwood
MICHIGAN
Fatima N. Plater
NEBRASKA
Mark R. Claussen
NORTH FLORIDA
Amalia Morgado
QUEBEC WEST
Claude Lamontagne

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000
CENTRAL ONTARIO
Denise Nacev
COLORADO-WYOMING
Philip Perington
GEORGIA
Mary Still
KANSAS
Ricky Nunez
MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of London-Northwest, ON
QUEBEC CENTRE
Denise Brunelle
Roland Rhéaume
QUEBEC EAST-ACADIA
Louis-Marie Guité
QUEBEC WEST
Bernard Bougie
Nathalie Boulet
SOUTH TEXAS
Optimist Club of the Greater Copperas Cove Area, TX

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500
ALBERTA-MONTANA-SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Tim G. Bell
EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Kirkwood, MO
EASTERN ONTARIO
Ginette Quesnel
IOWA
Donald Pfeiffer
MICHIGAN
Debra Berry
NEBRASKA
Daryl A. Cisney
NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND
Audrey Gangloff
NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Gary and Louwanna Pender





"On Thanksgiving the Four Basic Food Groups are 'more,' 'a little more,' 'a lot more,' and 'too much'."



"Yes, I floss regularly – right before every appointment."

A young boy attending a wedding for the first time whispered to his mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness," his mother explained, "and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, "So, why is the groom wearing black?"

A gentleman entered a busy florist shop that displayed a large sign that read, "Say it with Flowers!"

"Wrap up one rose," he told the florist.

"Only one?" asked the florist.

"Just one," replied the customer. "I am a man of few words."

One day a mother visited her daughter's dorm room only to find her not at home. Knowing she needed support as a freshman, the mother disguised her handwriting and wrote her daughter a complimentary message signed as from a "Secret Admirer."

Later, the daughter thanked her mother for the note. When the mother asked her daughter how she knew who left the message, she replied, "It was the same handwriting as the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, and Santa Claus."

After a rich business man died, his family met in the lawyer's office for the reading of the will. The man left \$80,000 for his wife, \$75,000 to his brothers, and \$10,000 to each of his sisters. The will went on to read: "And to my nephew, Ralph, who always wanted to be mentioned in my will, I say hello, Ralph!"

A new mother came home from the hospital with her new baby son still wearing his hospital identification tag. The mother's three-year old son met his new brother, and then asked, "Mama, when are you going to take off his price tag?"

OPTIMIST SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS

NEW TOPICS
CREATE NEW
POSSIBILITIES
FOR YOUTH

If your Club is looking for an activity that allows Members to bring out the best in kinds, look no further than the Optimist scholarship contests!

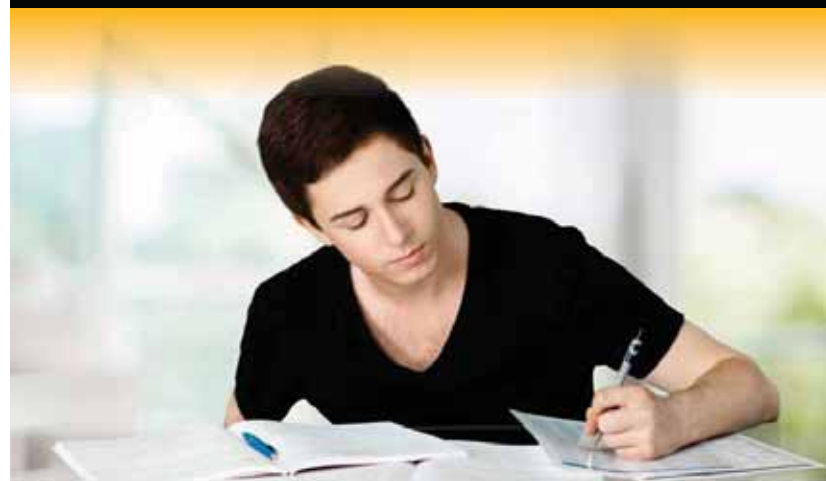
Here are the scholarship topics for the 2015-16 year:

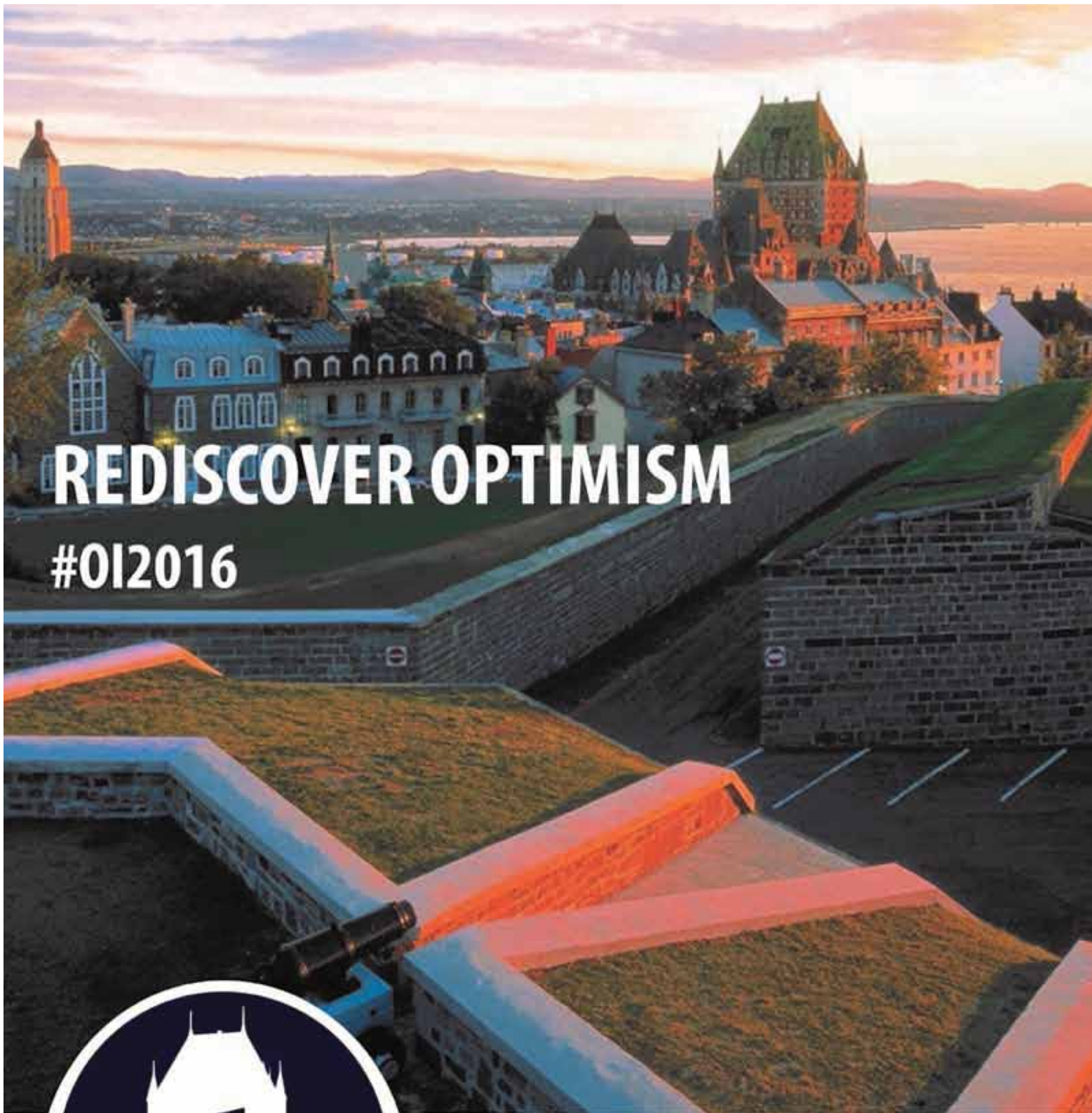
Essay: "Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction"

Oratorical and CCDHH: "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others"

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

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





REDISCOVER OPTIMISM

#OI2016



QUÉBEC 2016

98th Optimist International Convention



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

June 30-July 2, 2016

Québec City Convention Centre

VISIT WWW.OPTIMIST.ORG/CONVENTION FOR HOUSING AND MORE DETAILS.