

The OPTIMIST

Winter 2016



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During the Season of Giving



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

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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 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 During the Season of Giving, the New Member Fee will be waived for all new Members added between December 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016.

CHALK TALKS

WITH COACH DAVE

Optimist Family and Friends,

As we enter 2016, I wish each of you, as well as your families, a happy and healthy New Year! As we celebrate the beginning of another year, it is time for each of us "to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future." During this Season of Giving, let's remember "to look at the sunny side of everything and make our Optimism come true."

As Optimists, we should be proud that we are making a real difference in the world—one child at a time. Our Optimist Clubs provide hundreds of thousands of hours of "hands on" service (and hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships) to youth each year. Moreover, we currently serve more than two million children annually, and when we reach our shared goal of 100,000 Members, Optimists will be able to serve more than a million additional children each year!

As we look forward to the rejuvenation of Spring, please make plans to join your International Vice President, other Optimist leaders, and myself at an Optimism Summit and Regional Conference. You may choose between eight Optimism Summits to be held throughout North America and the Caribbean. At each of the Optimism Summits, we will share ideas and learn more about how to bring out the Best in our Clubs, in our Club Members, and in Ourselves. You can find more information regarding the Summits at www.optimist.org.

Also, in this issue of *The Optimist* magazine, you will find information regarding the 2016 Optimist International Convention to be held in beautiful and historic Québec City. Because Québec City was founded by explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1608, the theme of our convention will be "Rediscover Optimism." Our goal is to make the International Convention both fun and worthwhile. Of course, we should all make plans to arrive early or stay longer to enjoy the Old World charm found within the walls of Old Québec City, with its many wonderful cafés and shops located on cobblestone streets, as well as the surrounding area.



PRESIDENT DAVE BRUNS

As we look forward to 2016, we should keep these words from that great philosopher—Dr. Seuss—in mind: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Thank you for caring!

Yours in Optimism,

Dave Bruns, 2015-16 President Optimist International



WIN A CLUB GRANT IN THE 2016 REEL OPTIMISM VIDEO CONTEST

The fourth annual Reel Optimism video contest will allow adult Clubs, youth (JOOI) Clubs and the general public to submit videos with the chance to win a \$1000 Club Grant and a \$500 bonus award. Using the creativity of Club Members, partners and community resources, Clubs are asked to create a short video (3 minutes or less) that illustrates the topic sentence, "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others." With the creation of the new Oratorical World Championships, the theme for the 2016 video contest ties into the Oratorical Contest's 2015-16 school year topic.

Three separate categories will be offered in 2016. Adult Clubs will be able to submit in the "Club Showcase" category while youth (JOOI) Clubs will enter videos into the "Youth Club Showcase" category. Plus—new in 2016—a "Put Your Optimism on Display" category has been created that will be open to the general public. Submissions in this category will be accepted from community groups, other nonprofits and individuals.

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

2016 Contest Schedule

- **FEBRUARY 17-APRIL 15:** Members, Clubs and the general public submit videos following the submission guidelines.
- **MAY 10:** Finalists in each category will be announced. Voting open to the public.
- **MAY 31:** Public voting ends.
- **JUNE 30-JULY 2:** Winners announced during the 2016 International Convention in Québec City. Additional votes to be cast by Members onsite at convention to determine THE BEST Overall Award and bonus prize.

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 imagery and visual effects
- Creativity
- Storyline and flow
- Use of time
- Name of project clearly stated

MORE DETAILS: WWW.OPTIMIST.ORG/REEOPTIMISM

NEWS &

VIEWS

COMING SOON: 2016 Optimism Summits & Regional Conferences



While Optimists are always concerned with bringing out the best in children, there are numerous other things on their minds. Countless details go into the planning and execution of a fundraiser or community service project. Club meetings have to be organized and speakers have to be scheduled.

If you are looking for one event that has it all and can help you become a better Member, then the Optimism Summits & Regional Conferences are the answer! The Optimism Summits & Regional Conferences are specially designed to provide information and helpful instruction that will be of interest and use to every Member. This training will help you recruit new Members, publicize your Club and serve more children in your community. Do not miss this opportunity to be part of the best training Optimist International has to offer!

You can reserve your spot to attend one of the Optimism Summits & Regional Conferences today! Visit www.optimist.org/summits for more information. If you have additional questions, contact the Leadership Development department at 800-500-8130 or leadership@optimist.org.

FIDELITY BONDS

American Contracting Services, Inc. and CNA Western Surety have teamed up to offer your Club a fidelity policy program. Fidelity bonds, often called dishonesty policies, are an inexpensive way to protect your Club from dishonest acts in regards to the mishandling of funds.

A fidelity bond is a form of insurance protection that covers policyholders for losses that they incur as a result of fraudulent acts by specified individuals. It usually insures a business for losses caused by dishonest acts of Members handling funds such as membership dues. Another advantage to having a fidelity bond is the reassurance it gives to prospective Members knowing that the Club is taking responsible action to insure integrity of the Club.

SIMPLE PRICING:
1 year policy of \$5,000 = \$100;
\$10,000 = \$126; \$25,000 = \$187
and \$50,000 = \$257
3 year policy of \$5,000 = \$285;
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and \$50,000 = \$732

Apply online at www.buysurety.com. To speak to a bond specialist, call (800) 600-9240.

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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 July 31, 2015 and October 31, 2015:

Level VII	
Bron Austin Deal	NTX
Allen Renz	ALMS
Level X	
Thomas Casteel	ALMS
Ozzie Hacket Jr	AC
Gita Hendricks	DMM
Robert Kluge	NE
Delno Salmen	NE
Pat Sechser	DMM

CLUB ELECTION Time is Coming Up

All Optimist Clubs should be make preparations for electing new officers for the 2016-17 administrative year. Now is the time to seek out qualified and interested Club Members for a leadership position.

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

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER Candidates Sought

Candidates for the offices of Optimist International President-Elect, International Vice President-Elect and International Board Members for 2016-17 are now being sought. Clubs will elect Optimists to these positions during the online voting session in June.

Self-nominations for these positions must be received in the International Office no later than April 1, 2016. The International Candidate Qualifications Committee will also announce its nominations for these positions by March 1. If you want to recommend someone for an International office to the Candidate Qualifications committee please fill out the evaluation/recommendation form that can be found at www.optimist.org.



BURNING TREE

OPTIMIST CLUBS OF DE SOTO, KANSAS

Submitted by: Ruth Nelson, Kansas District



Sometimes, the stars align, and you receive a special opportunity. The recent building of the Burning Tree Optimist (Adult) Club of De Soto, Kansas and the Burning Tree JOOI Club was just that.

A little over a year ago, we received an e-mail from Stephanie Swenson, Manager at Burning Tree Golf Course, looking for some help with a potential junior golf academy. We were able to connect this past August and that was the beginning of helping Stephanie make her vision become a reality.

Stephanie invited Dale Fox, Immediate Past Governor of the Kansas District and myself to meet with her. When we met, she invited us to make a presentation to the De Soto Chamber of Commerce (she was not only a member, but their President-Elect) to talk about Optimist International. After our meeting with the Chamber in October, we continued our conversation and invited Stephanie to start building an Adult Club to support the kids in the junior golf academy. Instructions to Stephanie were to reach out to folks within the Chamber who would be supportive, develop a core group of individuals to visit with about building a Club, and meet with presidents of other local clubs to explain that this Club would be a "single focus" Club devoted to the development of a junior golf academy, and non-threatening to the community body of work established by existing clubs.

We wanted to give her time to make these connections. Not only did she do this, she took her inquiries a step further. She met with a local golf pro that she was taking lessons from and enlisted his support. She visited with local high school golf coaches in the surrounding towns to ask for their

support and she got them on board. We helped by developing a brochure for the potential new Club and an invitation card that she could use.

At her invitation, we met with one of the owners and Stephanie to "tell our story" and get his buy-in. The story: what Optimist International is all about, how the insurance offered would be beneficial to have for this endeavor, how it aligned with "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," the potential for participation in Optimist International Junior Golf qualifiers and tournaments, and to determine a potential place and dates for an informational meeting.

We pulled samples of curriculum from the internet to help give ideas for academy content, while waiting for future meeting dates.

Stephanie began the process of inviting the community to be a part of this initiative. She had many contacts through the Chamber, and members of Burning Tree Golf which undoubtedly was helpful. And because she was passionate and had a vision for what she wanted to accomplish, others bought in!

January 28 was established as the first informational meeting date. At the end of the evening she had 7-8 applications. Danny Schuette, New Club Building Manager at Optimist International, helped us charter on March 12 with 21 Members. The Club has continued to grow since.

That's not all! A parallel conversation was being held between Stephanie, Dale Fox, Russ Testorff, District JOOI chair, and myself to start a JOOI Club of the kids who were going to participate in the junior golf academy.

Because of these conversations, all participants of the academy are also JOOI Members, and carry the Supplemental Youth Accident Insurance coverage. They Chartered on May 21 with 40 Members and the New Burning Tree Junior Golf Academy opened on June 2 with 41 participants. There were four adult coaches, and five student coaches helping make this academy a reality (all are Optimist Members).

Two of the junior golf academy girls ages 10-11 played in the Kansas qualifiers on May 29 in Emporia, Kansas and they took first and third in their age bracket on a very wet and rainy tournament day.

We attended the academy through its conclusion. A two-day tournament was held on for the 6-14 year-old participants. High school attendees participated

in a tournament with another youth golf group in team and match-play competition. A family picnic was held and medals and plaques were presented to all and the course will open on Monday nights for youth golf, where academy participants can come play with a parent or a friend (if old enough) for a small fee.

At the close of the academy on the first day, Stephanie said,

“I did not find one kid, parent, or grandparent that was not excited about this academy.”

There is a vision for expansion of the academy in the future thanks to Stephanie's passion for working with youth and through the support and encouragement of the owners of Burning Tree Golf Course.



A "Sweet" Partnership FOR YOUTH APPRECIATION

Submitted by: Robert Stark, O'Fallon Optimist Club, Illinois District



The O'Fallon Optimist Club has found an "outside the box" way to recognize youth in their community. The Club, along with the O'Fallon Township High School, have partnered with Sweet Katie Bee's, a from-scratch organic cupcake, coffee and lunch bakery/café, to reward outstanding high school seniors.

Each month the Club presents a senior with front row parking at the high school and \$25 to donate to a charity of their choice. At Sweet Katie Bee's, the student receives a \$20 gift card and their photo, with their parents, is hung in the café. The senior recognized is determined by the high school depending on grade point average and extracurricular activities.

The Club was established in 2002. The Club partnered with Sweet Katie Bee's two years ago, but the student of the month program has been existence for many years. Along with the student of the month program, the Club also takes care of the road clean up near the local junior high school.



THE YA YA XPRESS OPTIMIST CLUB DID IT AGAIN!

By Sandy MacKay, Ya Ya Xpress Optimist Club, Georgia District

It was the Georgia District 3rd Quarter Conference when the Ya Ya's did it again. Not only did we do it again, we did it in style.

Each quarter the Ya Ya's choose an organization, located in the conference area, to collect needed items for. The organizations must meet one very important criteria – they must work with and support children. This time we didn't choose just one organization, we chose four.

The 3rd Quarter District Conference was held in Peachtree City, Georgia. The local organizations chosen were **Joey's Toy Box, A Brighter Day, Bloom – Fayette County, and Fragile Kids Foundation.**

The mission of **Joey's Toy Box** is to provide comfort and support to children and families engaged in the battle against childhood cancer and other serious life threatening conditions. They hope to accomplish this mission of love by providing toys and other comforting gifts to these brave children as they endure their medical procedures. Support is also given to the individual families as they continue their journey with their sick child by providing some financial assistance to help with expenses. Ages can range from 3-16 years.

A Brighter Day provides support and emergency support to families in need in eastern Coweta County, Georgia all year long. They provide support to teens who are pregnant or have given birth and decided to keep the baby, provide school supplies and winter apparel to those children in need and help to provide

Christmas assistance to needy families in eastern Coweta County.

Bloom – Fayette County provides support to children who are removed from their homes by the Department of Family and Children's Services. Most of the time children who are removed from their homes arrive in foster care with only the clothes on their backs. For this reason the Bloom Closet was created. The Bloom Closet provides Georgia's foster children with free clothing, baby gear, books and school supplies. Items can be either new or gently used (clean).

The mission of **Fragile Kids Foundation** is to enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of children with support, supplies and prescribed medical equipment not covered by Georgia Medicaid or private insurance for Georgia's medically fragile children living with chronic illnesses, genetic and traumatic disorders and orthopedic and neuro-muscular challenges.

The Ya Ya's provided these four organizations with many of the items on their wish lists which included toys, card games, diapers, hygiene supplies, school supplies, financial donations, and all sorts of birthday party supplies. Each group had several overflowing boxes of items.

It brings great joy to the continually growing Ya Ya Xpress Optimist Club to be able to help these organizations.

Until next time... Ya Ya!

WHAT MILLENNIALS NEED

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

MILLENNIALS NEED THESE THINGS TO MAKE THINGS POSSIBLE – HERE ARE WAYS THAT CLUBS CAN ENABLE THEIR NEEDS.

MONEY — Millennials may not have a lot of money, so every penny counts and they are willing to work for it. They are also savvy spenders and know what they want and are financially responsible. Unfortunately, student loans haven't helped them and they will find higher dues an issue in Clubs.

Millennials may not have the funding to become full Members of the Club, but that doesn't mean they won't be good Members. I like to think if they are willing, we will find a way to get them involved. The traditional matrix is that if you have someone who invests in their involvement, they will be invested in getting involved in the Club. For Millennials this may not be entirely true due to funds available and time, however, your Club can

subsidize Members who contribute. Eventually, these Members will reward your efforts. Find creative ways to get them involved if you need to and see what happens.

HEALTH — Millennials know they need to take care of themselves. They watched their parents struggle through issues and don't want to end up the same way. Sharing the Optimist Creed and how it adds value to their health is a great way to introduce them to your Club.

According to researchers at the University of Pittsburg, Optimists live longer than pessimists. Women who were optimistic - those who expect good rather than bad things to happen - were 14 percent less likely to die from any cause than pessimists and 30 percent less likely to die from heart disease after eight years of follow up in the study. Optimists also were also less likely to have high blood pressure, diabetes or smoke cigarettes.

TIME — Millennials want to be better at managing their time, both professionally and personally. It's critical to note that while our time is valuable, we need to ensure that we respect that and make the most of it. If there are delays, they might text you or you might have to find an innovative way to have a meeting.

TECHNOLOGY — Millennials are integrated with technology and it's a huge part of their lives. Communication and knowledge are tied together. This generation uses tools and apps to find the information they need. Clubs need to embrace this and this generation can help you adapt.

AN OPTIMISM-FILLED EVENT

Submitted by: Glenda White, ACA Optimist Club, North Texas District



The Optimist Club of Arlington had a few special guests on September 12 – the NFL Sunday Night Football bus and NBC! The SNF Bus Tour chooses successful youth sports programs from around the country to visit while on the way to Sunday Night Football games. The Optimist Club of Arlington has served thousands of kids during its 70 years in existence and currently has over 1000 kids in the Optimist Youth Football Program. The ACA Optimist Club has worked closely with this program for over 50 years, providing over 500 cheerleaders each year to cheer on their teams.

USA Football, associated with the Optimist Youth Football program, is the Official Youth Football Development Partner of the NFL and NFLPA. Through this partnership, the Club helps their coaches increase their knowledge and abilities in coaching youth, and giving them the best experience possible in their pursuit of excellence.

NBC took football game footage and snapshots. The bus was available for free tours and photo opportunities. Tony Casillas, past lineman for the Dallas Cowboys, came out to encourage the young football players – and yes, show off his two Super Bowl rings!

The event was great publicity for the Optimist Clubs in Arlington, along with the sports programs, and a great opportunity for the kids and the “young at heart” sports fans.

CITY OF KETTERING, OHIO, CELEBRATES DOR-WOOD Optimist Club's 50 YEARS of COMMUNITY Service

Submitted by: Mike Athmer, Dor-Wood Optimist Club, Ohio District



SUMMARY OF DOR-WOOD OPTIMIST CLUB COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Dor-Wood Optimist has a tradition of actively supporting community programs such as local programs such as the Kettering Holiday at Home festivities; Avenue of Flags, Golf for Kids, Kettering Backpack Program; the Kettering Fairmont High School – Kettering Alter season opening football game and accompanying Robert Moore Starter Football Trophy; Optimist Club building; Optimist Oratorical and Essay contests; additional elementary, middle school, and high school schools programs; and numerous other community-sponsored projects and initiatives.

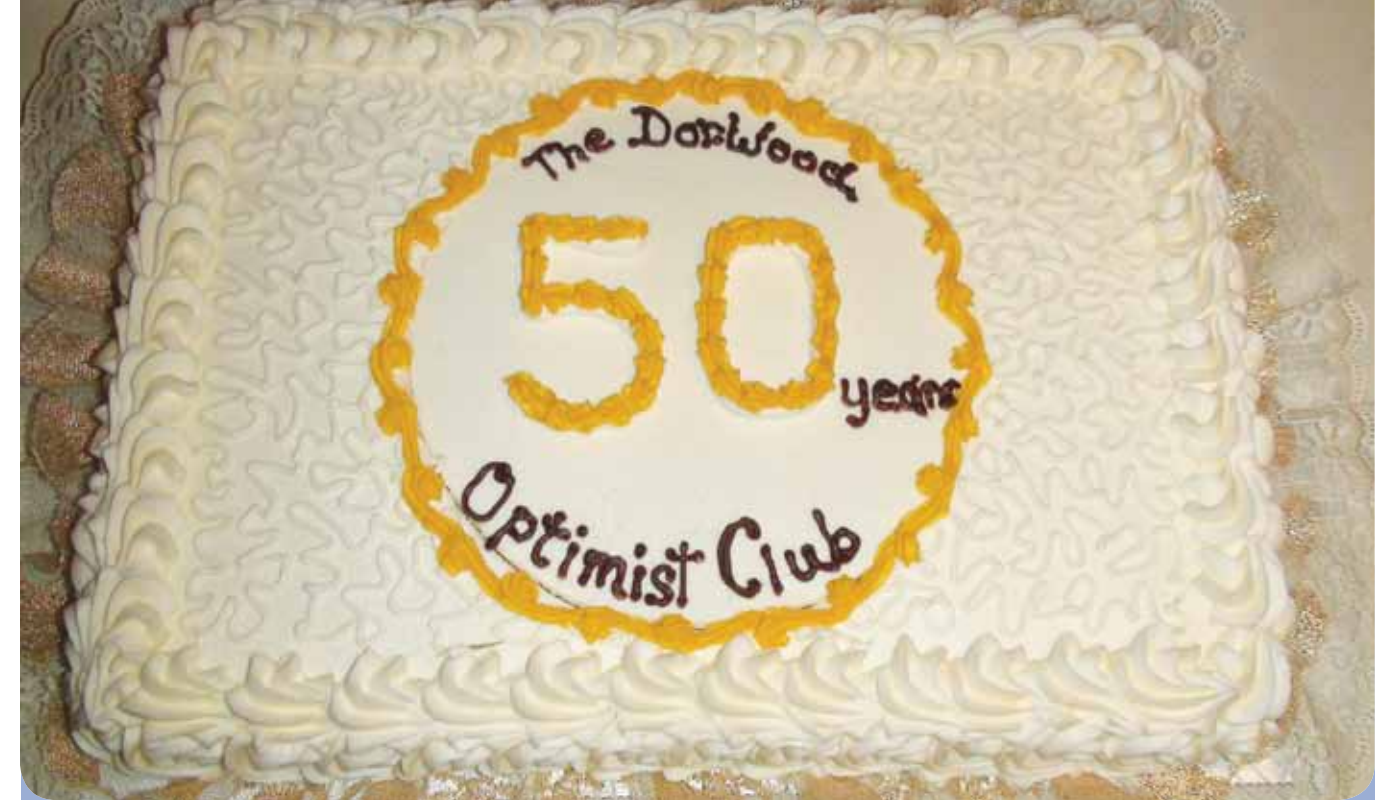
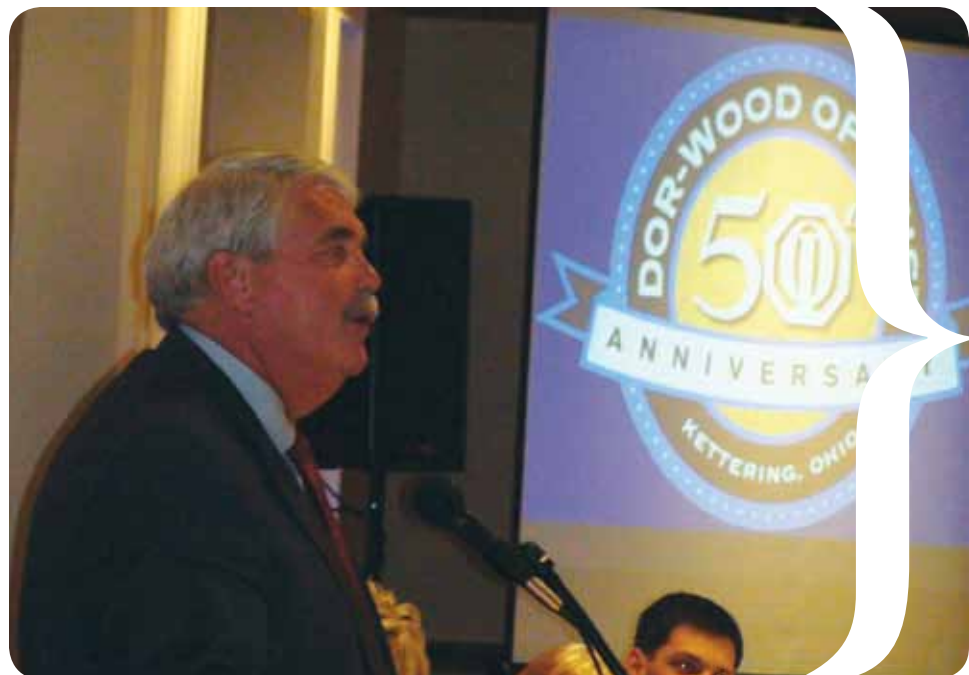
CLUB HISTORY

When did it all start? The Dor-Wood Optimist Club was officially organized on May 13, 1965. It was chartered by Optimist International on June 12, 1965. The term Dor-Wood originated from the name Dorothy Lane and Woodman Drive Optimist Club of Kettering, Ohio. Its sponsoring Optimist Club was the East Kettering Optimist Club. While the current weekly Dor-Wood meeting location is the Presidential Banquet Center, the Club has met in numerous locations over the years. Although the initial Club meetings were regularly held at Vito's Venice Inn, the initial planning meeting was held at the Parkmoor Drive-In on Woodman Drive.

Kettering, Ohio's Dor-Wood Optimist Club celebrated its 50th anniversary of community service during June 2015. Dor-Wood's tradition of serving all youth in the community highlights the work of countless area people.

Dor-Wood's long-time and popular tradition of serving all youth in the community was highlighted during a 50th anniversary dinner by a proclamation read by Kettering Mayor Don Patterson declaring on behalf of the city that June 2015 is Dor-Wood Optimist Club month in Kettering, Ohio.

The proclamation recognized Dor-Wood for its 50 years as an integral part of Kettering, its service to youth in the community, and its effort to bring out the best in the city's youth since June 12, 1965.



CHARTER MEMBER JOE MCCLOUD RELIVES THE BEGINNING

BEFORE HIS UNTIMELY PASSING JUST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, THE CLUB'S MOST SENIOR MEMBER AND A CHARTER MEMBER, JOE MCCLOUD, PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE CLUB'S STARTUP IN 1965.

“We are an active service club,” said McCloud. “Original startup Club Members included business people from companies like Top Value, Delco Products, Winters National Bank, occupants of Woodlane Shopping Plaza, Ohio Bell, and other companies whose location and community focus was centered in the Dorothy Lane-Woodman Drive area of Kettering.”

McCloud laughingly informed the Club that in 1965, Dorothy Lane and Woodman Drive were single-lane roads. The Club's first fundraiser was raffling off a TV, which raised \$500. McCloud also remembered how the Club began selling Christmas Trees – without much knowledge. Although tree lot locations have moved around

over the years, at its peak, the Club sold nearly 1,500 trees at two locations in Kettering.

McCloud also reminisced about how many Members of the Dor-Wood Optimist Club over the many years provided countless service hours and contributions to the Kettering community. Over the years, Dor-Wood Club membership peaked at 120 Members, and today still totals 100 Members.

Today's diverse Club membership includes corporate business officials, Kettering school officials and administrators, retired teachers and administrators, community judges and lawyers, local business owners, and banking and financial management.

Joe McCloud reflected, “When asked to help on a community project, even if we did not always know how to do it at first, we still simply got it done. I am extremely proud to be a Dor-Wood Optimist. We truly live up to the motto: ‘Friend of Youth’.” Words that still ring true for the Club 50 years later.

For more information about the Dor-Wood Optimist Club, please visit the Dor-Wood Optimist Club website at www.dorwood.org.

YOU CAN HELP START A CHESS PROGRAM!

Eric M. Nager, Daphne Optimist Club, Alabama-Mississippi District



Chess is one of the oldest board games in the world and is played world-wide. The rules are the same wherever you go. This makes chess a great game for building friendships and international good will. It also helps those who play the game develop critical thinking skills, and about 30 countries around the world teach chess as a math subject in their national elementary school curricula. Canada and Russia are two examples of such countries. What is the connection of chess to math?

If you have ever seen a tournament chess board, you will notice it is a grid eight squares wide by eight squares long. Typically, across the bottom, the board is lettered A-H, and numbered along the side 1-8. Those who play chess competitively record their moves as they make them. As an example with the white pieces, a first move with a knight might be depicted as b1-c3. Whether the player realizes it or not, he has just plotted coordinates on a grid. This is applied algebra.

It is not surprising to me that countries like Canada and Russia have higher standardized test scores than the United States in math and science. In fact, it was my privilege to take some players from my team to Russia several years ago as part of an initiative called Chess for Peace. We were part of a team of 26 students from around the United States, and I noticed when we played the Russian students that they were several years younger than ours. Apparently our hosts did not want to embarrass their guests and provided younger students in order to make for a more competitive match.

While large-scale studies have yet to be conducted in the United States, anecdotal evidence indicates that students who are introduced to chess tend to improve their test scores in math, science, and even in reading. My observation as a chess coach over the past fifteen years leads me to conclude that students who play chess learn discipline, logic, patience, time management, and critical problem-solving skills. And what student does not enjoy learning in the form of a game?

What does all of this have to do with Optimists? This is where you can help: look into establishing chess events and programs in your local school systems. Chess boards and pieces are relatively inexpensive to purchase and the benefits of the game can have wide-reaching effects. Depending on the level of chess expertise that resides in your Club, there are several steps that can be taken.

1 Help to organize an after school club at a school. This will provide opportunity for those kids who want to play the game. A good first step in approaching the school is identifying a faculty sponsor who is willing to host the activity. The local Optimist Club can then provide the equipment and even instruction, if Club Members are also players themselves. If several schools in a region start to field teams, competitive matches can then be arranged between the schools. In our area, we have a competitive scholastic league that is entering its 46th year of competition and includes elementary through high schools. Another way to help schools is to purchase chess software for the school computers so that students can play and learn online.

2 Host occasional chess tournaments in the community. These can be very informal and aimed at all the children in a given community. Different sections can be open by age or ability with prizes for each. More equipment, like chess clocks, will be necessary in order for the event to stay on schedule, and this adds to the expense. However, tournaments can also be a great fund raiser for a school or Club. At my school, we host an annual tournament and the parents chip in to sell food and drinks. Along with the modest entry fees, this allows our Club to travel and compete in regional events.

3 Talk to your local school board about chess in the curriculum. In my state of Alabama, we are in the first year of a three-year pilot program where the state board of education has selected seven school systems throughout the state for teaching chess in schools. Teachers were identified and trained over the summer and instruction began in the fall. Optimist Clubs can approach the chess federation in their state as well as local businesses that rely on math and science majors as a potential funding partners. The advantage of having chess in the curriculum is that all students benefit.

These are just some ideas to get you started. I'm sure you will think of others that are unique to your community. In my opinion, chess provides one of the biggest potential "bangs" for the relatively modest buck. What better way to Bring Out the Best in Youth?

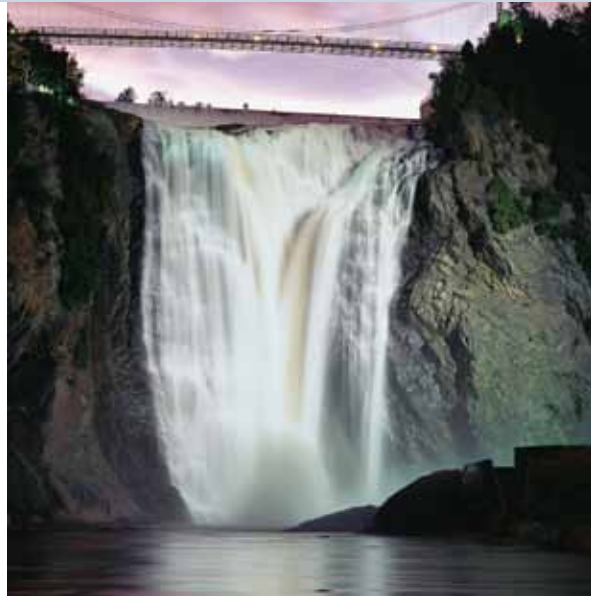
Eric Nager is a full time Investment Advisor at Southern Capital Services, and a part time Chess Coach at Bayside Academy in Daphne, Alabama. Several of the ideas in this article are drawn from his book *Checklist for Checkmate: 15 Keys to Building a Successful Team* (available on Amazon), based on his experience building a chess program from scratch. He is a Member of the Daphne Optimist Club.

REDISCOVER OPTIMISM IN QUEBEC

JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2016
 QUEBEC CITY CONVENTION CENTER



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



TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28 & 29 AND SUNDAY, JULY 3:
 Optional Optimist Group Activities i.e. City Tour; River Cruise, Tour of the Island of Orleans

Optimist International Convention and Host Area Committee Members are making plans for great things to happen for your youth during the convention in Quebec. The youth program events will be on Thursday afternoon and evening, Friday morning/afternoon and Saturday day and evening.

Register online or download the form at www.optimist.org/convention. Save money by registering by the "early-bird" deadline, May 1. If you would like assistance with registering, have any questions or need additional information about the International Convention, please contact us at 800-500-8130 or convention@optimist.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 1:

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS-ELECT AND CLUB PRESIDENTS-ELECT BREAKFAST
 1ST BUSINESS SESSION
 HOUSE OF OPTIMISM
 APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JULY 2:

OLD TIMERS'/FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
 HOUSE OF OPTIMISM
 WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE
 2ND/CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION
 PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET/BALL

TUESDAY, JUNE 28:

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND GOVERNOR-ELECT TRAINING
 DISTRICT TRAINER CLASS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29:

CLUB TRAINER CLASS
 REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS OPEN

THURSDAY, JUNE 30:

FIRST TIMERS' ORIENTATION

"JUST A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE. I ENJOYED EVERYTHING! THE PEOPLE WERE GREAT, THE ACCESSIBILITY TO INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS, THE TRAINING, THE ENERGY, AND THE OPTIMISM. I HAD A FANTASTIC TIME." - AARON GUNNARE, DAVENPORT NOON OPTIMIST CLUB, IOWA AND 2015 CONVENTION FIRST TIMER

VICE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR TRAINING
 HOUSE OF OPTIMISM (EXHIBIT HALL) – NEW THIS YEAR – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE
 DISTRICT CHAIRS AND CLUB LEADERS TRAINING
 OPENING CEREMONIES



TOP FIVE REASONS

to Attend the 2016 Convention

** If traveling from the U.S., you will need a passport, be sure to check the expiration date or get one ordered right away. Visit the convention page of www.optimist.org for details.

1 Training

Included in the cost of registration - District and Club Officers leadership seminars and Personal Growth and Improvement workshop sessions for all Optimist Members.

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

- Laurel Schirmer, Optimist Club of Sheboygan, Wisconsin

2 Optimist camaraderie

A unique Optimist opportunity to network with like-minded Optimist family members. As the Optimist Creed states: *"By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, in our communities and in ourselves."*

3 Prepare

Learn how to prepare budgets, appoint committees and when to file reports - the little things that will help make your Club and District successful.

4 Location

Come early or stay after to enhance your Optimist Experience with the excitement of Quebec City. Named among the ten best U.S. and Canadian Travel destinations again in 2015 by readers of the prestigious tourism magazine Travel+Leisure!

- So Europe - so close
- A UNESCO World Heritage treasure
- Walkable
- Safe
- Stroll the only walled city north of Mexico and its cobblestone streets

5 Expand your horizons

Pick up some supplies with the Optimist logo on them and learn new fundraising and project ideas in the exhibit hall! 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.

Continue to check the convention page for updates at www.optimist.org/convention.



GROWTH SURGE TOUR WITH PRESIDENT DAVE BRUNS

According to polls and calculations focused on the number of projects and children who participated in Optimist activities, there are more than 30 to 35 children positively influenced by each Optimist Member annually.

The ideal solution to being of service to even more youth doesn't require a miracle, but simply growing our membership. The 2014-15 Optimist year under Ken Garner's presidency saw the start of a five-year growth plan with an objective of reaching 100,000 Members for the 100th anniversary of our organization in 2019. Following up on this mission, the 2015-16 International President Dave Bruns started the Growth Surge Tour in the first month of his term, October 2015.

In a week of activities, the Growth Surge team met over 800 Optimist Members along the way!

What follows are the notes from the Growth Surge team's travel log.

Friday, October 23 – First day of the tour:

The Growth Surge Tour began October 23 in Quebec City, the host city for the 2016 International Convention. Known for its festive, enchanting character, we were able to get an advance feel of the warm welcome extended by the Optimists of the region and of the European character that is part of the milieu. A guided tour of Old Quebec allowed us to familiarize ourselves with the area surrounding the location of the next International Convention. Later that day, Optimist Clubs from the Quebec City area



We visited Old-Quebec surrounding the site of the next International Convention. So Europe, so close! A sincere thank you goes to Sharon Frenette (second from right) for this memorable guided tour.

enthusiastically welcomed us and we had the opportunity to speak about the new Optimist year's main objectives: promote and host a successful International Convention and promote the new Optimist Oratorical World Championships.

Saturday, October 24:

Granby is a city which has an Optimist Club that is strong, dynamic and looks to the future. During a NOW program event, we were welcomed at the Club's own meeting site which is a large building that can accommodate over 200 people (and the official coffee supplier is Tim Hortons thanks to special contacts between the Club and the franchise)! After President Dave Bruns' speech, we witnessed the induction of Roxanne Ménard, daughter of Quebec South District Governor Sylvain Ménard, as well as the introduction of the JOOI Members.

There was a brunch which gave the around 100 Members who attended a chance to get to know the International President and to exchange ideas about new projects. The Granby Optimist Club even owns a semitrailer that can transform into an exterior stage. They are certainly well-equipped for their youth activities!



International President Dave Bruns with Roxanne Ménard, Granby Optimist Club's newest Member.

Sunday, October 25:

This was probably our busiest day of the tour. In the morning, we went to Vanier and we were honored to have the opportunity to say "Happy 100th Birthday" to one of the Members. In his honor, Anne Donkers, International Vice President of the Northeast & Great Lakes Region, made a cake to mark this special occasion and also highlight the "100 for 100" objective (100,000 Members for the 100th anniversary of our organization).

After that, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation presented a check for the Childhood Cancer Campaign to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Vice-President Anne Donkers, Central Ontario District Governor Steve Gordonyi, 2015-16 Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation President Yves Berthiaume, five Optimist Members and three guests from the Forest Park Optimist Club and the Limoges Optimist Club visited the hospital. The two Clubs bestowed a \$3,300 check.

In the afternoon, we were off to Spencerville to attend a Zone NOW program event where 25 Members representing four Clubs were present. Two new Members were inducted by President Dave. The Club and District Members served dinner. Anne Donkers again awed us with her baking skills by offering us cookies depicting the Quebec City 2016 Convention. Obviously, they were delicious!

We were again on the road for three hours in the direction of Brooklin. It was the end of the afternoon, and in the fall that means the blinding sun was low in the sky. Upon arrival, we met with the Members of the new Durham College Club. We also met the Mayor of Whitby, Don Mitchell. Brett Santacona, a Member of the JOOI Board of Directors, met President Dave and was given a Kansas City Royals baseball cap. Brett is a die-hard fan of the Toronto Blue Jays who made it to the finals of the American League Championship.



A generous donation from local Optimist Clubs to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

GROWTH SURGE TOUR WITH PRESIDENT DAVE BRUNS



Monday, October 26:

We visited Norton Public School in Burlington, Ontario and met the JOOI Governor Mathew Nacev, along with other JOOI Members. There were over 250 students at the school and each one received a reflective zipper pull with President Dave's logo.

Later in the day, we arrived in Milton, Ontario for a NOW program event where the local Optimist Club offered dinner. There were more than 80 Members from 18 Clubs, as well as some Past Governors. Brett Santacona was thanked for his support of the CCOF and received a necktie in the foundation's colors. We also reminded him of his promise to wear the Royals baseball cap during the entire World Series (Toronto had just been eliminated by Kansas City)!



The Milton Optimist Club offered and served dinner at the Milton Mega Sports Complex where more than 18 Club Presidents provided inspiring testimonies.

Tuesday, October 27:

Today we explored all of Kitchener. In the morning, we went to the Kitchener City Hall and met the Mayor! The Optimists who were present were recognized for their magnificent efforts.

After the Kitchener City Hall, we met over 250 students and teachers from the Pioneer Park Public School. Accompanied by the Director, Carole Ann Ogilvie, Steve Sanderson explained their hockey program. He also profited from the occasion to talk about a Member's participation in the program and how he proved his determination and perseverance. Mr. Sanderson and Ms. Ogilvie were given a \$1,000 check from the Kitchener-Southwest Optimist Club to ensure the hockey program's continuation.

In the evening, we visited the Midwestern Ontario District at Camp Heidelberg in Kitchener. Nearly 100 people were present, including Past Vice-President Warren Bechtold. Mr. Sanderson was even recognized for his participation in the Pioneer Park hockey program. Before leaving, we once again tasted Anne's delicious cookies!



Steve Sanderson in front of a group of 250 students. He later received a Citation from International President Dave Bruns for his devotion to the Pioneer Public School Hockey Program.

Wednesday, October 28 – Last day of the tour:

Our plan is to finish our visits in Ontario and then head towards Michigan in the United States. We went to London where 2013-14 International Past President Ron Huxley lives. We visited the London Health Sciences Centre and CCOF representatives bestowed checks totaling \$5,107 to be added to the \$26,000 already collected by the Bravery Bead Program. The program allows children to make a necklace by adding the appropriate colored bead for each experience of their hospital care.

We crossed the border in the afternoon and arrived in Auburn Mill, Michigan. We met Members from the Oakland Community College Optimist Club. President Dave had the opportunity to induct three new Members after the spirited testimonial of Chrissy Botson, the Club President.

Later in the evening, we headed towards the Motor City (Detroit). A NOW program event, organized by Detroit Optimist clubs and hosted by the Wayne County Community College Optimist Club, celebrated the induction of ten new Members. We even finished off the last of the cookies made by Anne Donkers as well as those made by Karen Monville, the Past President of the Optimist International Foundation.

CONCLUSION

Membership growth isn't measured only in terms of the number of Optimist Members, but also in terms of how many children will be influenced in a positive way: +1 Optimist Member also means +30 to 35 children positively influenced!

In short: 800 Members met from 115 Clubs from the St. Lawrence Region and the Northeast & Great Lakes Region. Add to that some 500 students who were able to listen to President Dave's passionate stories about his participation in the Oratorical Contest as a boy as well as his later involvement in Optimist International.

All in all, it was a successful and exciting tour aimed at igniting the importance of growing our organization's membership. Thank you to all Optimist Leaders, Members, and guests that made it happen!



THE GROWTH SURGE TOUR IN NUMBERS:

- +800 Members and guests
- 115 Clubs represented

- 1 International President
- 3 International Past Presidents

- 2 International Vice-Presidents
- 5 International Past Vice-Presidents
- 1 Vice-President Elect

- 8 Governors
- 20 Past Governors
- 4 Governors Elect

- 1 CCOF President
- 1 CCOF Past President
- 1 OIF Past President

- 500 students and their teachers
- 21 new Friends of Optimists
- 1 new College Club with 21 Members

Ten new members were inducted during this NOW event held by Optimist Clubs from Detroit.



Before competing at the Championships Mark had not heard of Optimist International, but believes the Championships was instrumental for his golf career. Mark adds, "I have nothing but great memories and things to say about the event. I thought it was well run and organized and was not only a very prestigious event, but it was just a really fun week at PGA National." Mark was able to impress a number of college coaches, eventually choosing to continue his golf career at San Jose State. His San Jose State coach is still with him today on the PGA Tour.

When asked what advice Mark would give to competitors at any Optimist Championships event, he replied: "Two things. First, be patient. The golf courses are very challenging. You are going to make bogeys and bad things are going to happen out there - just keep grinding, stay patient, and anything is possible. Secondly, enjoy yourself and meet as many people as you can. One of my favorite parts of the event was getting to know so many different people from different countries and walks of life."

In 2015 the Championships hosted over 650 players at PGA National Resort and Spa from 22 countries over a 2 ½ week period. Another 900+ spectators enjoyed great competition in every age division. Each year approximately 30 college coaches come out to watch. Players compete in our Olympic Style setting to maximize their ability to have fun off the course, too.

The Optimist Junior Golf program has had the pleasure of hosting events for many up and coming junior golfers.

PGA Tour Professional Mark Hubbard played in our Championships and has had a very successful golf career since competing in the tournament.

Growing up in Colorado, Mark not only wanted to test his skills against other high level juniors, but also wanted to get on the radar of college coaches from other states to play collegiate golf. He competed in everything Colorado had to offer and won many large tournaments at the state level. He won both the State Junior Stroke and Match-play Championships his senior year of high school, only the 4th person ever to win both in the same season. Outside of Colorado, he played in national tournaments hosted by other organizations. At the time, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships was by far the biggest event he had competed in.

Mark has many vivid memories of competing in our Championships. "I sprained my ankle really badly at a basketball camp a couple weeks prior to the tournament and wore an ankle brace the entire event. I remember limping a lot," recalls Mark. "But probably the best memory is my mom running out to me crying on the 18th green because she was so happy and excited for me. I had to calm her down because I wasn't in the last group so I hadn't officially won yet."



MARK HUBBARD: FORMER OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF PLAYER TURNED PGA TOUR PROFESSIONAL

- Attended High School at Colorado Academy 2004-2007
- College at San Jose State University 2007-2012
- Business Management Major
- Academic WAC All-Conference 2007-2011
- Academic All-American 2010, 2011
- WAC All-Conference Team 2008-2011
- 2011 WAC Champion
- Turned Professional in 2012
- Played the Golden State, All-American, Gateway and Canadian mini tours in 2012
- Played on the PGA Tour Canada in 2013 - won the Wildfire Invitational and finished 3rd on the money list, earned Web. Com Tour Card
- Played on the Web.com Tour in 2014 - Had a tour leading 6 top-ten's, finished 17th on the money list and earned 2015 PGA Tour Card



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

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

In the youngest boys' 11-13 age division, Nicklas Staub from Boyton Beach, Florida topped the leaderboard with a 70-67. Stewart Slayden from Ponte Vedra Beach, FL finished second with a 70-70 and third place went to Allan Kournikova from Palm Beach, FL with a 72-73.

Yae Eun Kim from Dominican Republic shot 71-71 to top the girls' 11-13 division. Last year's winner Alexa Pano of Lake Worth, FL took second place with a 69-76 and Zimbabwe's Danielle Bekker shot 80-79, taking third.



In the boys' 14-15 division, defending his title was Grant Herrenbruck from Salina, KS with a three-way sudden death playoff victory over Michael Checo and Luke Gifford, both from Boca Raton, FL, shot 72-74. Michael took second in a scorecard playoff.

The Girls 14-18 division also has a sudden death playoff against Michaela Williams from Athens, AL and Maria Fernanda Martinez from Mexico. Michaela was champion in the playoff with a 73-73 and Maria 72-74. Third place went to Jennifer Keim in a scorecard playoff against Marissa Balish from Allison Park, PA.

Champion Sachin Kumar from Trinidad and Tobago was even par with a 71-73 to lead the Boys 16-18 division. Second place went to Brett Beazant from Windermere, FL with a 72-74 and in third place Andy Spencer from Prairie Village, KS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!
Thank you to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission for the continued partnership supporting the Optimist Junior Golf Program.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Jim Boyd, Optimist Club of Urbandale, Iowa District & International New Club Building Committee Member

There are 17 countries around the world where the Optimist International Banner can be displayed by local Clubs. This year, during the "Right Here, Right Now" year, a concerted effort is underway to expand Optimist International's presence around the globe. It began last summer when then President-Elect Dave Bruns attended the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in Florida and found a number of people from other countries interested in bringing Optimist International to their respective homelands.

"If we are truly to be an international organization, it is important that we actively promote the building of Optimist Clubs throughout the world. Undoubtedly, there are people in every country who share our passion for making the world a better place by helping children." said President Bruns.

International expansion basically has two components. The first step is to find people in another country willing to work towards the development of a new Club with guidance from Optimists in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Optimist International is now seeking information for overseas contacts and Clubs willing to facilitate the development effort.



The overwhelming majority of the work on the project can be done via electronic means up to and including the organizational meeting. Today's technology of email, Facebook and Skype can also be used for the second step. Those tools are at the center of nurturing a new Club overseas so that it can become a major contributor to improving the lives of children in its area.

President Bruns adds, "The children we serve do not care about what country or District an Optimist Member lives in. Instead, they are simply thankful that there are Optimists there to help."

There are international development efforts now underway in Germany, Mexico, Thailand, Holland and Ghana with the potential for new Clubs in Taiwan, Italy and Australia. If you have friends or family, business associates or past exchange students overseas that you would be willing to contact for the initiative, you are asked to notify Danny Schuette of the New Club Building Department at Danny.Schuette@optimist.org.

New Optimist Club in Ghana Chartered in 2015.



MY OPTIMIST STORY

Submitted by: Bron Austin Deal, North Texas District



It is my distinct honor to serve Optimist International as the 2016-17 North Texas Governor. My journey started as a Member of JOOI in Chickasha, Oklahoma at Chickasha High School in 2001-02 under the direction of Optimist Margaret Davis. After a fifteen year journey, Optimist is alive and well and I am excited to be a part of it!

After graduating high school in 2002, I attended the University of Oklahoma and earned a BBA in Marketing from the Michael F. Price College of Business. I joined the International Fraternity of Delta Sigma Pi. I was President of our OU chapter 2006-07. I moved to Dallas after graduation and became Dallas Area Alumni President for a few years of Delta Sigma Pi. Upon attending one of our leadership conventions in St. Louis, Missouri, I met Optimist Sandy Larivee from Canada. We shared a hotel for our conventions and met in the hallway. I told her I'd keep my college kids in order and she replied she'd keep her Optimists in order! We exchanged stories and not far after, current International First Lady Patsy Garner began calling me to start an Optimist Club in Collin County Texas. Between Margaret Davis and Patsy Garner, they took turns calling me over the next eight years asking me to build a Club!

In early 2014, I felt I was ready to build a Club. I phoned a friend, Dustin Casey, and asked him to help me build the Optimist Club. He was in Delta Sigma Pi and a former President of his chapter at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. The two of us set out to charter a Club. On May 1, 2014, we chartered our Club with 26 Members as the Optimist Club of Collin County, Texas (OC3 for short). The Club covers the cities of Plano, Frisco, Allen, and McKinney, Texas or as some would call it, the new Dallas! The average age of our bi-monthly after hours Club is about 33. Our Club has become a national beacon for young members and we continue to develop projects that accommodate both the new and old, young and mature, as well as the devoted!

WE ARE STILL VERY NEW BUT IN OUR SHORT TIME, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING:

1. Increased membership by almost 400% to 100 Members
2. Built an International Club in the Republic of Panamá in June 2015 - Optimist Club of Panamá



3. Have a new JOOI and breakfast Club in the works!
4. Gave over \$2,500 back to our community
5. Served more than 1,000 underprivileged children by packing lunches for extended breaks (Spring, Thanksgiving and Christmas)

6. Raised more than 300 donated bags of goods for a south Texas mission serving underprivileged kids

7. Honored Collin County Sheriff Terry Box as our Distinguished Law Enforcement, as well as making him a Friend of Optimist and naming Recognition of Law Enforcement award after him

8. More than five Members have accomplished levels in PGI

9. Four Members attended the Optimist International Convention (Vegas and New Orleans)

10. Two Members recognized for Builder of Excellence

11. Charter President elected Governor

This is only the beginning of the Optimist spirit that I look to bring as Governor. We will work as a team to give back to our communities, serve our youth and ignite a nation of willing Optimist leaders. We start Right Here, Right Now under International President Dave Bruns and we hit 100,000 Members by our 100th Anniversary in 2019 as part of current International President Ken Garner's initiative. I hope to bring my energy to your Regions, Districts and Clubs as well. ***We are Optimists!***

JOOI CONVENTION: SAVE THE DATE!

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC, CANADA • JULY 3-5, 2016



MORE
DETAILED
INFORMATION
COMING
SOON, WITH
AN OPTIONAL
GROUP TOUR
DAY OF OLD
QUEBEC CITY
ON JULY 2.

Housing arrangements can be made in advance at the Four Points by Sheraton Quebec Resort for \$145 CDN per night.

For Youth Members who are United States citizens, a passport will be required for entry into Canada. Youth Members are encouraged to plan ahead as the processing time for a passport application can take up to six weeks.

If you have questions, please send them to youthclubs@optimist.org or call (800) 500-8130, ext. 218. Continue to check optimist.org/jooi for updates!



JOOI in the GATEway District

Submitted by: Alice Kuzniak, GATEway District

The GATEway District completed our first District project for the year. Optimist Governor Tony Bell installed JOOI Governor Chloe Sparwath, Governor-Elect Kerrington Witherspoon, and Secretary Emily Sirmans as Members of the GATEway JOOI Board on Saturday, October 24. Following the officer installment, 40 JOOI Members and seven adults volunteered at the Atlanta Zoo's Boo at the Zoo event. Volunteers gave out bags to collect candy, distributed candy, and helped kids with crafts.

For the 2015-16 Optimist Year, the GATEway District has created a "JOOI Support Team" to assist JOOI Clubs and Members. The first task of the team is to "strengthen the bridge between GATEway Optimists and JOOI Members."

Pictured (left to right) – Support Team Member Randy O'Dell, JOOI Governor Chloe Sparwath, JOOI Governor-Elect Kerrington Witherspoon, Optimist Governor Tony Bell, JOOI Secretary Emily Sirmans, JOOI District Chair Alice Kuzniak, Support Team Members Camilla Callis, Cheryl Kearney, and Laura Bell. Laura is also GATEway District's First Lady and Tony Bell's wife.



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

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

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

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THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO THE CALL

The Essex Optimist Club grant, awarded from the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, was used for a Youth Appreciation event. 47 young persons were selected by their youth-serving organizations to be honored for "making a positive difference" in their organization or youth group. The event called "Thanks for Making a Difference" was held on Tuesday, April 21 at Holy Name Parish Hall in Essex, Ontario.



Local community leaders were asked to serve the youth for a night of celebration. Servers of the meal included the town mayor and members of the town Council, local firefighters, policemen, the community policing safety officer, the municipal chief administrative officer, representatives from the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus and various other leaders. Their task was to serve the youth and their parents/guardians a full meal including salad, drinks, pasta and dessert. The youth's wish was their command!

When the local dignitaries were done serving the meal, the youth were each presented with a certificate from the Federal Member of Parliament, a certificate from the Provincial Member of Parliament and a gift from the Essex Optimist Club. As they were presented their gifts, the host read a summary of why each individual was chosen to receive this honor, listing their volunteer service both in their organization and in our community. Each volunteer server received a wooden Optimist Creed plaque. A representative of the organization the student came from was located at each table.

Each Essex Optimist Member was asked to network with representatives from the various community organizations and the volunteer servers. The Club was able to recruit two new Members at the event! The impact of this event is a positive awareness of the Essex Optimist Club, building positive relationships with schools and youth-serving organizations and other service clubs, as well as the municipal leaders of Essex.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN | I BELIEVE... IN \$36.50

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From 1st October 2015 to 31 March 2016

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

600	John Grover	604	John A. Anderson	608	Charles E. Wood
601	Thomas McNaught	605	John W. Montgomery	609	Bernie Mack
602	Carilyn McNaught	606	Merlin D. Dart	610	Gene Swift
603	Micheline Gagnon	607	Sam Bartley	611	Jack Southall (In Memory)

Top Ten as of September 30, 2015

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Kathleen Paulson	\$43.74
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$39.31
California South	Al and Alma Vinson	\$26.81
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$24.16
New Mexico-West Texas	Ludwig Bezemek	\$18.04
Colorado-Wyoming	Steve Gorrell	\$16.77
Pacific Central	Mary Boglarsky	\$15.54
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$15.48
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$15.31
Michigan	Ray Finocchio	\$14.85

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Ray Finocchio	\$48,363.43
Tennessee	Essie Johnson	\$35,855.20
Arizona	Kathleen Paulson	\$33,808.21
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$31,145.51
Iowa	Dave Mason	\$28,496.22
Colorado-Wyoming	Steve Gorrell	\$27,440.80
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$24,914.07
California South	Al and Alma Vinson	\$24,155.00
Indiana North	James Burk	\$21,574.13
Ohio	Jennifer Kendo	\$21,481.30

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Vince Parker	\$94.44
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$24.63
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$20.47

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Vince Parker	\$83,205.86
Centre du Québec	André Picard	\$25,093.95
Central Ontario	Thomas McNaught & Carylyn McNaught	\$21,838.10



Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015 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

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN
Optimist Club of Monroe, WI

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

OHIO
Optimist Club of Dayton-Riverdale, OH
TENNESSEE
Robert and Carol Buss

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Optimist Club of Billings-Big Sky, MT
CENTRAL ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Milton, ON
EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Jackson-Noon, MO
LOUISIANA
Optimist Club of Lafayette, LA
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Optimist Club of Twin Falls, ID
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Ron G. Huxley

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
Optimist Club of Athens, AL
ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Clint Sopchyshyn
EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Rolla, MO

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Geneva Sopchyshyn
Optimist Club of Blackfalds, AB
ATLANTIC CENTRAL
Optimist Club of Gettysburg, PA
COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Front Range American Cancer Society-Denver, CO
Optimist Club of Westminster, CO
EAST MISSOURI
Sarah F. Martin
KANSAS
Suzanne and Rod Obermeier
Optimist Club of Topeka-White Lakes, KS
KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Joseph and Maria Batistoni
Optimist Club of Frankfort, KY
MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
Optimist Club of Mechanicsville, MD
MICHIGAN
Stephen R. Saph
NEW YORK-NEW ENGLAND
Barbara J. Scirto-Sullivan

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Ralph Pickett
NORTH FLORIDA
Optimist Club of Oviedo, FL
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Optimist Club of Hillsboro, OR
SOUTH CAROLINA
Optimist Club of North Augusta, SC

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

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Optimist Club of East Valley-Yuma County, AZ
CALIFORNIA SOUTH
Optimist Club of San Diego-Success, CA
EAST MISSOURI
Barry L. Bozarth
EASTERN ONTARIO
Rheal Bazinet
Diane Charlebois
Ronald Fournier
GEORGIA
Rose M. Kohler
KANSAS
Ruth F. Nelson
KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA
Optimist Club of Southgate, KY
LOUISIANA
Optimist Club of Gretna-West Bank, LA
MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Central Macomb, MI
Optimist Club of Roseville, MI
NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
Ludwig A. Bezemek
NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Carl L. Bowen
PACIFIC CENTRAL
Laney and C. Tighe Boyle
QUEBEC SOUTH
Club Optimiste de Sherbrooke-Centre Estrie, QC
QUEBEC WEST
Claude Normand
Nicole Normand
Robert Perron
TENNESSEE
Optimist Club of Clinton, TN
Optimist Club of Concord-Cedar Bluff-Farragut, TN

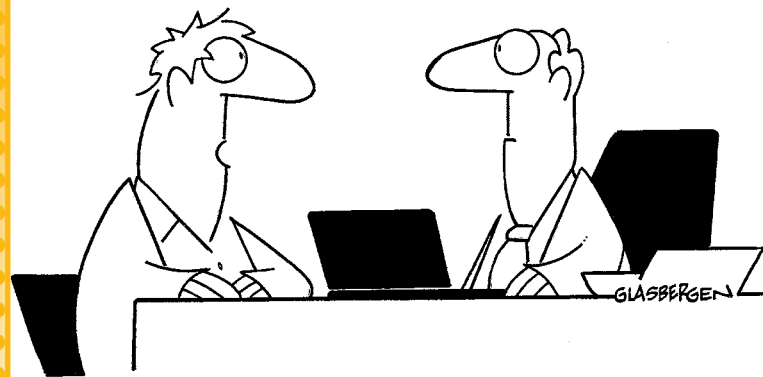
BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Harvey Johnson
Leslie Trevor
ARIZONA
Joyce Filsinger

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA
Sue Plummer
CENTRAL ONTARIO
Don McConnell
Linda Mitchinson
COLORADO-WYOMING
Patricia Merrill
Charles and Veronica Pease
EASTERN ONTARIO
Stéphanie Bélanger
Bernard Charlebois
Jacques Gour
GEORGIA
Anthony B. Bell
ILLINOIS
Optimist Club of O'Fallon, IL
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Paul G. Oehrlein
Dennis Phares
KANSAS
Jane Harris
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Harold Brussell
MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
John C. Evans
MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Mount Clemens, MI
MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
George Dewys
Optimist Club of Centre Wellington-Fergus, ON
NEBRASKA
Marvin Wastell
NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
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Lawrence E. Kelley
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NORTH TEXAS
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QUEBEC WEST
Mélanie Dostie
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Charles Z. Robinson
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TENNESSEE
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Optimist Club of Lynn Garden, TN
Optimist Club of Martin-Breakfast, TN

Sunnyside



"Explain to me again why enjoying life when I retire is more important than enjoying life now."



"Hi, this is Mom! If you're calling to complain about your sister, press 1. If you're calling to ask for money, press 2. If you can't find something in the laundry, press 3. If you're hungry, press 4..."

A little church in the suburbs suddenly stopped buying from its regular office supply dealer. So, the dealer contacted the church's deacon to ask why.

"I'll tell you why," explained the deacon. "Our church ordered some pencils from you to be used in the pews for visitors to register."

"Well," interrupted the dealer, "didn't you receive them yet?"

"Oh, we received them all right," replied the deacon. "However, you sent us some golf pencils... each stamped with the words 'Play Golf on Sunday.'"

A seven-year old had gone fishing with her with her father.

"Are you having any luck?" he asked.

She replied indignantly, "No, I don't think my worm is really trying."

It was the end of the day when an officer parked his van in front of the station. As he gathered his equipment, his K-9 partner was barking at a little boy staring at him.

"Is that your dog back there?" the boy asked.

"It sure is," replied the officer.

Puzzled, the boy looked at him and then towards the back of the van. Finally, he asked, "What'd he do?"

"What am I supposed to do?" a young man looking to get married asked his friend. "Every woman I bring home to meet my parents,

my mother doesn't like."

"Oh, that's easy," his pal replied. "All you have to do is find someone like your mother."

"I did that already," he replied. "and that one my father didn't like."

A child was bad in school so he was told to bring a parent with him the next day. His parents were both working, so he brought his grandfather.

"Who is that man?" the teacher asked.

"That's my grandfather."

"Is he on your mother's or father's side?"

"Oh, he sticks up for both of them."

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