

Fall 2016

The OPTIMIST



Meet the 2016-17 Optimist
International Leadership Team



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

**TOGETHER WE CAN
#OI2017**



99th Optimist International Convention

July 6-8, 2017
Albuquerque Convention Center



MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the 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.

The Optimist (ISSN 1085-5017) (CPN 40032242) (USPS 808-320) is published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer by Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, a non-profit and incorporated association of Optimist Clubs located in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$4.50 per year for Club Members, \$5.00 per year for nonmembers.

No responsibility is assumed for the opinions expressed by authors of articles or claims by advertisers.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Optimist*, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.
© Copyright 2015. OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL.



Features

Fall 2016 | Vol. 97, No. 1

2. President Jim Kondrasuk
5. New Organization-Wide Rebranding Program
6. Optimist Club of the Year
8. Reel Optimism Contest
12. Oratorical World Championships
16. Optimism Rediscovered
18. International Board of Directors
25. Wapakoneta High School Octagon Club
27. Optimist International Foundation Board of Directors
29. Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Board of Directors

The Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

Managing Editor Ronda Vaughn

Editor Heidi Schertzer

Graphic Designer GRAFXWORX, Fee McCaskill

Editorial Office 4494 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108

Office (314) 371-6000

Fax (314) 371-6006

Email magazine@optimist.org

On the Cover Optimist International is ready for another successful Optimist year! For full listing of International leaders, see pages 18-21.

MY OPTIMIST LIFE: JIM KONDRASUK



Jim went on to become an International Vice President-Board Member in 2000 under President Bob Garner. That year the Board of Directors adopted the marketing slogan: "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." It was also the year the Board opted to begin the switch from all printed material to a comprehensive on-line site.

When he served on the Candidate Qualifications Committee, a unique opportunity arose. As a Past District Governor, Mike Listenberger was his Vice President at the time. On the

Candidate Qualifications Committee, Jim had the opportunity to be on the phone call informing Mike that he had been nominated as President-Elect of Optimist International.

Jim served on the International Board of Directors from 2009-2012. He had the opportunity to work with a great group of dedicated, caring and giving Optimist Members.

Jim has a great leadership team in place for this year, and is deeply honored, humbled and excited to be able to serve as the Optimist International President for the 2016-17 Optimist year.



He strongly believes the Club level is the most important level of the organization. He says, "On the Club level we meet our friends, do projects in our local communities, and serve our local youth. It is at the Club level where we begin to grow personally by our involvement in all we do in our Clubs."

The focus for the 2016-17 Optimist Year is the Club. It will be the year of the Honor Club. The Club is the heart and soul of the Optimist organization. The Club is where lifelong friendships are made, projects are planned and executed, youth in communities are served, and special fellowship at Club meetings is enjoyed.

"The Year of the Honor Club" – a time tested and proven way for a Club to remain active, healthy, and a vibrant part of their community by serving both youth and its community, having fun, and as Optimists, encouraging its Members to grow personally by serving and giving back.



Jim goes on to say, "We show our Optimism - the happiness factor – publicly. We have purpose in what we do by serving others. We have engagement with our Members, in our communities and the youth we serve on a regular basis. We create relationships inside and outside our Club that last a lifetime. We share accomplishments and achievements in giving back to the community and ourselves in many very positive ways. All of this helps to make us happy, positive and Optimistic!"



In the coming year, Jim hopes focusing on the Club level will help shape Optimist International's future. We will build a new rapport with Clubs, re-connect with Clubs, rejuvenate and re-invigorate Clubs.

Jim Kondrasuk was born and raised in central Wisconsin. Jim attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated with a bachelor's of business administration degree and a master's of science management degree. Like many other people, he stayed in the Madison area after completing his education. He is a lifelong Wisconsin Badger and Green Bay Packer fan!

Jim attended his first Optimist International Convention in 1985 in Albuquerque. Since attending convention in 1985, he has not missed a single convention and will be returning to Albuquerque in 2017. Jim said, "I have met new Optimists each and every year, always expanding my Optimist Circle of Friendship. If anyone would have ever told me that I would be returning to Albuquerque as President of Optimist International, I would never have believed them!"

Jim served as a Distinguished and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor during the 1986-87 Optimist year. He was the District Secretary-Treasurer for the WISUM (Wisconsin and Upper Michigan) District for the 1989-90 year. All of Wisconsin and upper Michigan were one District at that point in time and was the second largest District. They had sixteen Lieutenant Governors that year, and all were Distinguished. The District built over twenty Clubs that year.

The WISUM District voted at their annual convention to split the District in two during the 1991-92 year. Two new Districts were "born" - the SWIS (Southern Wisconsin) and WINUM (Wisconsin North Upper Michigan) Districts. Both Dave Gass (WINUM District Governor), and Jim (SWIS District Governor) had the honor and privilege to serve as Charter Governors!



Jim originally joined the Middleton Optimist Club while in the banking field in the mid-seventies. He eventually was transferred to a new location and left the Middleton Club. After leaving the Middleton Club, he joined the Waunakee Optimist Club as the Charter Secretary-Treasurer in 1983. He served as Club President in 1985-86 under Governor Dwaine Sievers. His current home Club is the Monona-East Madison Optimist Club. The Monona-East Madison Optimist Club was also the home Club of the now deceased Optimist International Past President Bill Newhouse.

"The Year of the Honor Club" - TOGETHER WE CAN!

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 2015-16.

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 then 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.



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 1 and July 31, 2016:

LEVEL VII

Marcia Aurand	AZ
Kelly Hunte	CAR

LEVEL X

Bill Edgerton	NCE
Lister Florence	EMO
Ruth Octavia Hill	TA
Patricia Merrill	COWY
Suzann Owings	NMWTX
Mike Perine	CALSO
Paul Simon	COWY
Mildred Tatum	TA
Pat Thomas	OK
Mike Toepper	AZ

New Organization-wide Rebranding Program

During the recent International Convention in Québec City, Chair of the International Marketing & Communications Committee Nick Prillaman introduced a new marketing and branding endeavor for Optimist International. This rebranding program includes a new official corporate logo for Optimist International. The new logo will be officially in use on October 1, 2017.

A detailed handbook of brand identity guidelines is also being finalized. This comprehensive document will provide all Clubs and Districts with specifications on how to properly apply the new logo. The handbook will also provide instructions on visual identity, logotype, official color palettes, typography and other important details.

Volunteer leaders and staff are also working on marketing toolkits for Districts and Clubs. These toolkits will include a collection of marketing assets such as a Club-specific or District-specific logos, letterhead and business card templates, a customizable brochure, social media icons and more. In order to address any potential concerns surrounding this new rebranding program, Prillaman also presented a short question and answer session.

To view a video of the unveiling of the new logo and the Q&A session, go to www.optimist.org/newbrand

Junior Optimist Club Receives National School Choice Volunteer Award

Chambers of Commerce across the country are asked to select a local school group every January to recognize. The Chillicothe Junior Optimist Club based at Illinois Valley Central High School in Chillicothe, Illinois was nominated by the Chillicothe Chamber of Commerce this past school year. The nominated local school groups are then voted on by Chambers of Commerce to honor one group with the National School Choice Volunteer Award. The Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors presented the Chillicothe Junior Optimist Club with a 2015 National School Choice Volunteer Award. The Chillicothe Junior Optimist Club has nearly 70 Members.



Junior Optimist International Rebranding

The official name change of Junior Optimist Octagon International to Junior Optimist International will begin October 1, 2016. Therefore, the organization should be marketed as Junior Optimists or Junior Optimist International. The new Junior Optimist International logo can be found at www.junioroptimist.org. If you have questions or need more information, email youthclubs@optimist.org or visit www.junioroptimist.org.



OPTIMIST Leadership ACADEMY

Optimist International held its fourth annual Leadership Academy class at the International Convention in Québec City, Québec. The candidates selected were invited to attend a one-day training program to share their leadership knowledge and participate in an advanced leadership program. As a member of the Leadership Academy, individuals were recognized for their exceptional leadership skills and as future leaders of the Optimist International organization. The Leadership Academy expanded this year to have a French speaking session, as well as an English, and plan to continue offering a French session going forward.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF COLLIN COUNTY FOR BEING NAMED THE 2014-15 OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR!

The Optimist Club of Collin County conducted many successful community service projects such as the CASA of Collin County Kids Golf Classic, Lovepacs food pantry packaging & delivery, the CASA of Collin County Christmas Toy Drive, a clothing & school supply drive benefiting the Carrollton Spanish Baptist Church Mission, the CASA of Collin County Voice for Children Gala, and a Frisco Roughriders concession fundraiser. The Club's leaders and Members attended Optimist International Leadership Summits, the Optimist International Convention, participated in the PGI program and completed Optimist International Foundation training. Several Club growth initiatives were executed including a "text a prospect" challenge that resulted in more than 30 new Club Members, a N.O.W. party in conjunction with the Club's first anniversary, and a banquet honoring Charter Members. The Club sponsored the Optimist Club of Panama, the first-ever Optimist Club in that country. And, Members are currently working on new Club projects in Puebla, Mexico and Morgantown, West Virginia. In total, the Club added 70 new Optimists during the 2014-15 year.

The Optimist Club of Collin County 2014-2015 Leadership Team:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Bron Austin Deal, President & Club Founder | Jason Hinojosa, Board Member |
| Dustin Casey, President-Elect & Club Co-Founder | Cheryl Phillips, Board Member |
| Mireya Regalado, Treasurer | Danielle Russell, Board Member |
| Justin Shaeffer, Secretary | Kimberly Weakley, Board Member |
| Heather Cumming, Board Member | Katrina Winant, Board Member |

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. N.O.W. 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.

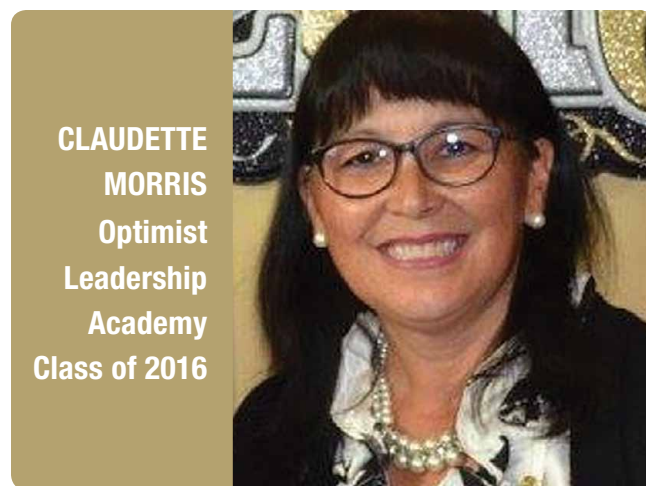
Community outreach and impact on children and Members from projects throughout the year will be considered as part of the judging, using the same criteria as Optimist Club of the Year.

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.

A number of great leaders have participated in the Leadership Academy – both as candidates and trainers. Many of the past attendees of the Leadership Academy have gone on to serve as Governors for their respective Districts. An Optimist Leadership Academy Alumni Facebook page will be created for past attendees to stay in touch and continue to share ideas and information with one another.

For more information and to view past class rosters, visit www.optimist.org.



CLAUDETTE MORRIS
Optimist Leadership Academy Class of 2016

Thank you very much for choosing me, inviting me to attend, and giving me the opportunity to hear exceptional leaders share their experiences and expertise in leadership. Their testimonies were all very enriching. Offering the course in French is proof that Optimist International is sensitive to our personal learning needs.

Thanks to the trainers for sharing their knowledge and experience. The day flew by with all the material covered. A special thanks to all our International Past Presidents and future International President for having taken the time to honestly answer our questions. What a privilege!

The Leadership Academy is a good way to target future Optimist International leaders. Encouragement and support are essential. Thank you very much, Leadership Academy, and to Stephanie Monschein and all those who worked towards the success of this course.

POSITIONS HELD:

- 2001-02 Club Secretary** - Optimist Club of Hammond, Ontario
- 2003-04 Club President** - Optimist Club of Hammond, Ontario
- 2005-06 Club Secretary** - Optimist Club of Hammond, Ontario
- 2005-06 District A&A Chair** - Eastern Ontario District
- 2014-15 District Leadership Development Chair** - Eastern Ontario District
- 2015-16 District Essay Contest Chair** - Eastern Ontario District

ReelOPTIMISM

VIDEO CONTEST

WINNERS DEMONSTRATE HOW THEIR BEST BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN OTHERS

The 2016 Reel Optimism contest attracted a record number of video submissions by adult Optimist Clubs, Junior Optimist Clubs and the general public. Based on the topic "How my best brings out the best in others," the videos submitted illustrated a broad range of projects, Member testimonials, Club events, inspirational quotes and more.

For two weeks in May, Optimist Members, Junior Optimists and the general public voted for their favorite videos via an online-based contest hub. During the voting period, the finalists' videos received a total of 29,596 views and 16,761 votes were cast!

During the recent Optimist International Convention in Québec City, the three winners of the contest were announced. Congratulations to the following category winners:

CLUB SHOWCASE WINNER: Centerville Noon Optimist Club of Ohio

YOUTH CLUB SHOWCASE WINNER: Junior Optimist Club of Coronado, California

PUT YOUR OPTIMISM ON DISPLAY WINNER: Highland High School Technology Club in Illinois

Each of the Clubs received a \$1,000 Club grant courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. In addition, all convention attendees voted in an onsite poll for their favorite video from amongst the three category winners. The winner of the \$500 bonus Club grant was the Centerville Noon Optimist Club of Ohio.

Centerville Noon Optimist Club of Ohio plans on using their video as a tool to reach out to potential members of the community to join the Club and to local businesses to support their efforts in the local community. Myron Rheume, 2015-16 Club President, commented: "We have a theme this year – 'It's Not What We Do – It's Why We Do It' – because we believe our children are our future. We are proud of our production that showcases this amazing Club, our Members and the kids we serve." The \$1,500 grant will be used to support youth programs in their community, such as hosting free Build-A-Bear events for children battling cancer and provide college scholarships for youth who have overcome huge obstacles.



[CENTERVILLE NOON OPTIMIST CLUB OF OHIO (PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT): GREG GRIFFIN - PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR, DEBE DOCKINS - SCRIPT WRITER AND NARRATOR, MYRON RHEAUME – 2015-16 CLUB PRESIDENT, AND JULIE WALLING - PHOTOGRAPHER]

[COLE MULLINS, 2015-16 PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB OF CORONADO, CALIFORNIA]



The Junior Optimist Club of Coronado, California submitted a video to not only show other Junior Optimist Clubs and Optimist Clubs what the Club participates in, but for the Club to reflect back on the great year it has had. Cole Mullins, 2015-16 Club President, created the video with photos collected from Club Members and of iconic settings and structures in his community. The Junior Optimist Club of Coronado, California will use their grant money to send Club Members to the 2017 Junior Optimist Convention.

The Highland High School Technology Club donated their winnings to the Highland Optimist Club. Engineering teacher Chris Durbin said, "The Highland Optimist Club have a better handle on the needs of the community than anyone else in the area. As much support as they have given to the High School clubs and sports teams through the years, it is a very good feeling to help them continue to do great things."

Club grants are funded through the generous support of the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

To view the videos of the winning Clubs, go to www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism.



[HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY CLUB SHOWING THE REEL OPTIMISM AWARD TO THE HIGHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB (PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT): JAY KORTE – 2015-16 CLUB PRESIDENT OF HIGHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB, CHRIS DURBIN, HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY CLUB SPONSOR, JOSH CASE - HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY CLUB MEMBER AND VIDEO LEADER, AND KEVIN HEMANN - 2015-16 CLUB SECRETARY OF HIGHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB]



[TWO TEAMS BATTLE AT THE CLUB FINALS: FROM VALLEYFIELD, THE ST-JOSEPH-ARTISAN SCHOOL AND THE MARIE-ROSE SCHOOL FROM ST-TIMOTHÉE.]

OPTIMIST GENIUSES

Submitted by: Roger Cousineau, St-Timothée Optimist Club, Québec Centre District



[THREE TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN THE ZONE FINALS. IN THE BACK ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) IS ROGER COUSINEAU, ST-TIMOTHÉE O. C. PRESIDENT, EMCEE OF THE GAME AND ACTIVITY DEVELOPER; CAROLINE MARCOUX, LT.-GOVERNOR OF ZONE 14; PIERRE ALLARD, BEAUHARNOIS O. C. PRESIDENT; DANIELLE LAROCQUE, VALLEYFIELD O. C. PRESIDENT AND DENIS MARTIN, ST-TIMOTHÉE O. C. PRESIDENT-ELECT 2016-17. THE THREE TEAMS ARE FROM VALLEYFIELD, BEAUHARNOIS AND ST-TIMOTHÉE.]

Have you ever been on a televised quiz show concerning general knowledge? Have you ever played Trivial Pursuit or Super Quiz? The mentioned games put your memory and knowledge to the test! Since 2001, children in elementary schools from the Québec Centre District have had the chance to participate in an Optimist quiz game, Optimist Geniuses. It's a team game of memory and comprehension on the Tintin comic albums. The activity was started by the St-Timothée Optimist Club in 1997.

The principle is the same as the former show Budding Geniuses televised on Radio Canada. It is an original activity and is directed only toward elementary school fourth graders. Participants must read and memorize the 62 pages of a Tintin comic album. It is very "in" since the Steven Spielberg film has revived Tintin, Snowy, Captain Haddock, Professor Calculus and their friends.

In order to promote the development of children and encourage teachers to participate in this activity, we have set very precise objectives to encourage children to read and to understand what they read, to memorize and observe a text and drawings, to develop team spirit and spelling skills, to enter a friendly competition, to develop a speedy response time and finally, to try to outdo themselves.

The first thing to do is name the committee chair for the activity. The chair must contact school administrators to know if they are interested in participating in the activity. A document has been prepared to inform administrators and teachers about this activity. Then a preliminary contest is held to choose the four participants at the Club finals. There can be several classes and several schools that participate. Participants have several weeks to read and memorize the comic album. The winning team from your Club finals will represent your Club at the Zone finals. Following Zone Finals are the District regions finals and District finals.

The District chair for the activity must form over 1,200 questions covering the 62 pages of the comic album and divide them among the four finals and also in accordance with the number of teams participating in each of the finals. Around 150 questions are asked in each of the finals. It is the chair who sends the questions and answers to the participating Optimist Clubs.

The following are the types of questions asked: **quick recall, team, face-off, spelling, pyramidal, where, when, and how, observation, relay and individual.**

There are 14 series of questions - two phases of seven series with a pause between the two. Once the correct response has been given, the questions and answers can be seen with the use of a projector.

All participants, winners and losers, receive a gift. Strict rules were voted on to ensure that the contest is well-run. The room can be decorated with characters from Tintin. You can also organize the contest for adults to be held during a special dinner.

The Optimist Geniuses Contest has been well-received by school administrators, teachers, parents, and especially by the young participants. It is impressive to see their performance and teamwork and to evaluate their memory of the comic album's details. They are awesome.

In the Québec Centre District, over 25 Optimist Clubs organize the contest. To find out more about this activity, consult the District Centre-du-Québec website (in French). Click on the left section *règlements des concours* and then on *Génies Optimistes*.



[Current Members and UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club alumni gathered for the Club's 20th Anniversary at Homecoming in October 2014.]

SNAPSHOTS OF OPTIMISM Still Going Strong

Submitted by: Kim Adams, Co-Advisor of UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club, Southern Wisconsin District



[Intern and 2015-16 SWIS District Lt. Governor Lauren Hageman presents a prize at the Second Annual Trivia Night in February 2015.]



[UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Charter Banquet, October 1994. SWIS District Governor Jim Kondrasuk installed the new officers.]

If anyone would have asked back in 1994, what the impact could be of 32 college students forming the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Student Optimist Club, I am quite certain we would have fallen short on our responses in comparison to actual outcomes.

Twenty-two years later, the response is much clearer. The Charter Members laid the foundation for a small, but strong student organization that has contributed thousands of hours of service to the campus and community, positively impacted kids, built friendships, helped members develop life-long skills, supported the mission of Optimist International, and has taken Optimism to various corners of the world. Its Members have truly made a difference in the world.

Club highlights are numerous, but over the years, a few notable moments stand out. Let's start at the very beginning—after all, "it's a very good place to start!"

- Our 2016-17 Optimist International President Jim Kondrasuk was Charter Governor of the SWIS District and was the District Representative at the organizational meeting of the UW-W Student Optimist Club on September 21, 1994. Jim has often looked to the Student Optimists for insights on reaching their peers and bridging the intergenerational gap.

Kondrasuk said, "The Club has functioned brilliantly since chartering under great student leadership and of course, key faculty advisors. Kim Adams was instrumental in chartering the club, and has served as its advisor since inception. Co-advisor James Lanouette, once a Member of the UW-Whitewater Student Club, has now helped Adams for four years. The UW-Whitewater Student Club has also done a great job in keeping its membership levels relatively constant. We have a new generation of leaders coming to us from the College Club ranks. So we all, as Optimists, owe a great deal of gratitude to the advisors and past and current Members of the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club. Our future is in good hands."

- The formation of the Club made history within the Optimist International organization. The UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club was the first in the world to be formed on a college campus with solely student Members. They hosted a 20th Anniversary Celebration two years ago at UW-Whitewater's 2014 Homecoming.
- In 2001, accounting major Josh Zaidel joined the Club. He became very active, served as Club President, made life-long friendships, served the SWIS District as Secretary/Treasurer, and is now the 2016-17 SWIS District Governor. Josh is the first Club alum to serve in these District capacities.

Zaidel commented, "Being a part of the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club helped provide me with the courage, strength, and skills to live an extraordinary life. I am involved with an Optimist Club post college helping the most vulnerable residents of my community and building on those skills as an Optimist District Governor."

- Several years later, Lauren Hageman stepped forward to serve as Lt. Governor for Zone 3 of the SWIS District in 2015-16. Lauren also served as President of her Club, as an intern for the Community Club, and as an active planner for two of the large-scale Optimist Trivia Night events co-sponsored by the Student Club and the UW-Whitewater/Community Optimist Club.



[2016-17 SWIS District Governor Josh Zaidel with former UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Members Jessica Helms and Stephanie (Snittler) Wilson at a UW-Whitewater Homecoming event in 2011.]



[Pictured from left to right: Whitewater Community Optimist Angie Alesci, Service Learning Student Gabrielle Busco, 2016 Spring President Jenna Leibfried, Washington Elementary Art Teacher Marena Hale, Vice President Lindsay Schaefer, and Co-Advisor Kim Adams.]

Hageman said, "Serving as Lt. Governor has provided me with an excellent opportunity to meet so many amazing people in various clubs and in other communities, while working to give back to my own community. It has really helped me to understand what being an Optimist really entails."

- "Optimist Trivia Night" emerged from the brainstorming of the student Club Members four years ago. The event is a collaborative effort with the UW-Whitewater/Community Optimist Club, raising \$5,400 in its first year, \$8,900 in its second year, and more than \$10,000 in its third year. All proceeds are divided between the two sponsoring Clubs, which in turn, use them to support worthy causes.



["Hallway Beautification Project" completion at Lincoln Inquiry Charter School (LINC).]

Some of the proceeds from the first "Optimist Trivia Night" were used for shipping an ambulance to Burkina Faso, Africa. In an eight-month period after the ambulance was delivered more than 400 patients were served by the emergency vehicle. The Student Club has coordinated nine service-learning trips over the past 14 years, including to Jamaica; Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; Belize; Ecuador; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Burkina Faso.

After the second "Optimist Trivia Night," the Student Optimist Club contributed proceeds and many service hours to LINC (Lincoln Inquiry Charter School). The Club helped to conduct a "Hallway Beautification Project" at LINC in May 2015.

Immediate Past President, Jenna Leibried said, "The Student Optimist Club has helped me to step out of my comfort zone and to gain confidence in communicating with people of different ages—kids, parents, teachers and community members. I really love it all."

The third "Optimist Trivia Night" allowed the Club to donate proceeds to a local elementary school. The check for \$3,000 was presented to Washington Elementary in March 2016.

Current Club President Lindsay Schaefer said, "Our Third Annual Trivia Night was not only a success for us Optimists, but for our community, as well. It was great seeing people from all different places come together to participate in such a fun event, while also giving back to those in need. It's incredible how so few people can make such a big difference in the community around them. I can't wait until this next year of Optimism, when we get to share our smiles and our services to help make this world a better place!"

SO WHAT'S NEXT? Current Members are planning for another ambitious academic year. They are gearing up for Homecoming, the Fourth Annual Trivia Night, and they will volunteer hundreds of hours on many other projects in 2016-17. More Members are being recruited to help with SWIS District events, and yet others are graduating and looking for ways to be involved with other Optimist Clubs or other service organizations. Optimism is still going strong at UW-Whitewater and will continue to live on for years to come.

For more information about the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club, contact co-advisor Kim Adams at adamsk@uwu.edu or co-advisor James Lanouette at lanouetj@uwu.edu.



[The core group of Optimists and travelers who helped to coordinate fundraising and shipping of the ambulance to Burkina Faso, Africa.]



2016 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The First Annual Optimist International Oratorical World Championships was a huge success! Optimist International's partnership with Saint Louis University resulted in a premier event for Optimist Oratorical participants from around the world. 29 contestants competed in person at the Saint Louis University Center for Global Citizenship and 32 other students from the United States, Canada, Jamaica, India, Belize, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Haiti competed via virtual technology. The Regional competition took place Thursday, June 23 with Regional winners advancing to the World Championship on Friday, June 24.

The next Optimist International Oratorical World Championships will be held June 15-16, 2017, with the topic: "What the World Gains from Optimism." District Chairs will set the deadline date for Optimist Clubs to complete their contests. The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International is May 15, 2017.

It is hoped for future contests that all Districts will encourage and finance their District winner to attend in person to experience the excitement, converse with other participants and develop life-long public speaking skills.

Congratulations to the Regional winners of the 2016 Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Each Regional winner received a \$5,000 scholarship. These students advanced to the World Championships contest to compete for the title of Optimist International Oratorical World Champion:

- **Northeast & Great Lakes – Sean Domencic (Atlantic Central)**
- **Southeast – Justice Hill (South Carolina)**
 - 3rd Place in World Championships, additional \$5,000 scholarship
- **Mid-Atlantic – William Zupp (North Carolina West)**
- **Middle America – Cameron Tyler (East Missouri)**
 - 1st Place in World Championships, additional \$15,000 scholarship
- **Great Plains – Grant Cadwell (Southern Wisconsin)**
 - 2nd Place in World Championships, additional \$10,000 scholarship
- **Southwest – Dawt Sung (North Texas)**
- **West Coast – Angelina Zhang (Pacific Northwest)**
- **St. Lawrence – Maxyme Auger (Québec Central)**
- **Global Region – Pallovi Romen (Belize)**

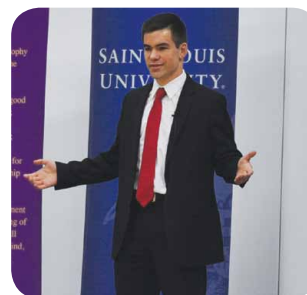


WORLD CHAMPION: CAMERON TYLER

Cameron Tyler, a senior at Jackson High School in Jackson, Missouri, is the first overall winner of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships. Cameron represented the Jackson Noon Optimist Club and the East Missouri District. He has been competing since seventh grade when his language arts teacher used an Optimist Oratorical Contest topic for an assignment and suggested students compete in a local contest. As the World Champion, Cameron has won \$22,500 in scholarships for competing in the Optimist Oratorical Contests.

Cameron's favorite part of the contest is meeting new people. He is still in contact with other competitors he met in St. Louis. He enjoys the various perspectives of each competitors' speech. He says even though everyone is given the same topic, each speech is completely different and inspiring.

Cameron is involved in choir, band, theater, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, and President of his local Rotary Interact Club. He is currently considering attending Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, Missouri to become a music teacher.



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Optimist International would like to thank Saint Louis University for their partnership and for hosting the successful event. 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 event was held in the Center of Global Citizenship located on the Saint Louis University campus. Competitors and families were invited to participate in guided campus tours of the Saint Louis University campus during breaks of the contest.

ORATORICAL JUDGES

JAY GOFF

is the Vice President for Enrollment and Retention Management at Saint Louis University. He held similar positions at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO and Missouri Tech in Rolla, MO. He has a bachelor's degree in communication from Southeast Missouri State and a master's in speech communication from the University of Kansas where he taught public speaking. Vice President Goff competed in speech and debate and the Optimist International Oratorical Contest as a high school student.

DOMINIC GIROUX

has been serving as the President and Vice-Chancellor of Laurentian University in Sudbury & Barrie, Ontario, Canada since 2009. Prior to his appointment at Laurentian in 2009, he was assistant deputy minister with the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In 2011, he received one of Canada's "Top 40 Under 40" Awards. Giroux holds bachelor's degrees in social sciences and education from the University of Ottawa, as well as an MBA from the École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) in Montreal.

CHERELL JOHNSON

is the master's candidacy specialist and a doctoral candidate in higher education administration at Saint Louis University. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication studies from Fontbonne University in St. Louis and a master's degree in higher education from Saint Louis University. She has worked with students in Upward Bound, a program that provides high school students with the motivation and academic skills necessary to successfully complete high school and enter post-secondary education. She is an experienced public speaker.

G. JOSEPH PIERRON

The Honorable G. Joseph Pierron is a member of the Kansas Court of Appeals in Topeka, KS. He previously served as a district judge and an assistant district attorney in Johnson County, KS. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Kansas. He was a high school and university debater and participated in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest as a high school student. He regularly judges high school speech and debate competitions.

Thank you to the following judges for their participation in the contest: Chelsea Boyles, Angela Burlton, Paule Doré, Reshad Farzan, Louis Galli, Sarah Gonzalez Noveiri, Wendy Hamstra-Smith, Carolyn Jackson, Nena Koseva, Gilles Levasseur, Sabrina Marsh, Kyle Strothman, and April Trees.



For more information about the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships and to watch the 2016 participants' speeches, visit www.optimist.org.



CHAMORRO OPTIMIST CLUB BRINGING CHAMORRO STUDIES TO SAN DIEGO

Submitted by: Sandy Uslander, Camorro Optimist Club, California South District

It is only natural to want to share who you are and where you are from. So when my son's elementary school asked if I would present the Chamorro culture as part of their global studies effort, it was easy to say yes. My son attends the Del Mar Heights public school in Del Mar, California just north of San Diego. Both the school and I wanted to do more than entertain the students; we wanted them to come away with a new understanding of a different place and people in the world.

To provide some background, the Chamorro people are native to the Mariana Islands just north of the equator and east of the Philippines. The Marianas, including Guam, Saipan and Rota have been American territories since the Spanish American War and its people have been citizens since 1950, soon after the islands were liberated from Japanese occupation during World War II. Today nearly one in eight Chamorro men enlist in the military, so many families have moved to the U.S. mainland and settled.

With the network of the Chamorro Optimist Club San Diego, we were able to gather educational displays, books and music. We worked with the Del Mar librarian to find materials for handouts and slides. The result was a three-week long Chamorro Studies program conducted during the students' library time.

On the first Monday, January 25, 2016, I came to observe and to assist the librarian if needed. I walked into the library to see a 12-foot long display of ancient Chamorro homes. On the shelves were books on the Mariana Islands. A slide showed a world map with the islands highlighted.

Second graders sat attentive in their seats as Del Mar Heights librarian, Heidi Merkel-Eckstein, explained that Chamorros had a 4,000 year-old culture. She showed them where the islands were on the world map. She told them about the Chamorro latte stone that she had researched and she showed slides we had provided. The students were fascinated by the large display and asked many questions.

The students checked out their books, but instead of saying "hello" and "thank you," they were asked to speak in Chamorro. "Hafa Adai" they said as they got to the librarian's desk. "Saina Ma'ase" they said when they received their books.

Each week the students received a different lesson. On week two they learned about traditional hunting and fishing, and on week three they learned about Chamorro arts and crafts. Librarian Eckstein and I were careful to include a sinahi necklace and a mwarmwar head piece, both of which would be worn by the dancers that would be featured on the final day, which was Chamorro Day at Del Mar Heights, February 12, 2016.

“We have been so fortunate to learn about a very special culture,” said Principal Wendy Wardlow at the Chamorro Day assembly. “Can you tell me what islands we’ve been learning about?” she asked as hands flew in the air. “Guam. That’s right. And... there’s more,” she continued as a student answered, “Saipan.”

The students were then treated to a live performance of Chamorro dances from the ancient era and the Chamorro Spanish era, which they had learned about. During lunch, they could join in learning some dance steps, or choose to make a flower, play the chongka game, or win prizes for knowing the answers to a Chamorro quiz. In the background, the musical trio, Island Mist, played Chamorro music. “I feel transported,” said Principal Wardlow.

Our young dancers, who had become the activity coordinators, were impressed with the students' enthusiasm. The Del Mar Heights students appeared thrilled to see their lessons come to life.

“This is life-changing,” said Principal Wardlow. “These children will always know what a Chamorro is and a little bit about them. That’s important.”

But I don't know if Wardlow realizes how it has changed us who have witnessed this program as Chamorros. It nearly brings tears to my eyes for a Del Mar student to look at me and say, “Hafa Ada.” It is a glimpse of what it would be like to have more visibility in this city where more Chamorros live than anywhere else in the United States. This exposure to Chamorro studies clearly benefits both Chamorros and non-Chamorros.

The success of this effort would not have been possible without the formation of the Chamorro Optimist Club San Diego, Chartered on November 7, 2015. Under the guidance of veteran Optimist and Club President, Greg Camacho, the organization facilitated the coming together of everything we needed to create this cultural education program.

The Chamorro Optimist Club San Diego will keep working to bring Chamorro Studies to more San Diego schools through other parents like me, and especially to the schools where our Chamorro students attend. We strive to one day have Chamorro studies included in the regular public school curriculum.



OPTIMISM REDISCOVERED

QUÉBEC CITY – JULY 2016



The International Convention attracted over 1,000 Optimists this past July in Québec City, Québec, Canada! The convention began Thursday, June 29 and ended Sunday, July 3.

The excitement began with people arriving early to take in the beautiful sites of Québec City by participating in the optional tours. There was a small group that also participated in a couple of service projects on Tuesday, June 27 and Wednesday, June 28.

The crowd continued to grow as folks also arrived early on Wednesday to register and enjoy the event at the Citadelle of Québec, including a tour of the museum and active garrison of the Royal 22 Régiment revealing over 300 years of history.



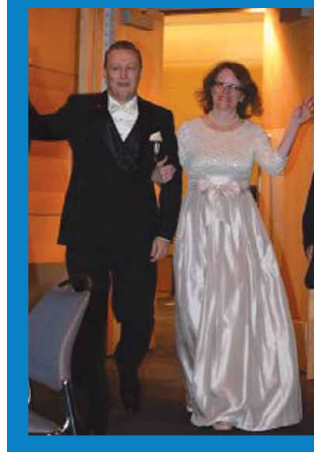
The House of Optimism, which was open for the first time to the public, was open Thursday through Saturday. Members and the public were able to see a myriad of vendors and Optimist International displays.



Registration opened again early Thursday morning to receive and welcome more Optimists. Workshops and training sessions began Thursday, including an orientation session in the morning for the First Timers.



The Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening was an event to remember. The featured entertainment was a local area group of youth from the Unis Studios team. They presented a martial art show that combined color, passion, discipline, athletic ability and more. Serving as flag bearers for the parade of flags were Marine Corp Cadets 202, Aviation Corp Cadets 629, Army Corp Cadets 2630 and Marine Corp Cadets MRC 08 Champlain. After the parade of flags, everyone remained standing as the Canadian national anthem was performed by 15-year-old Alicia Avery. The ceremonies continued with introductions of the organization's current and past leaders and inspiring words from the 2015-16 International President Dave Bruns and Junior Optimist President Logan Clemente.



It wasn't all business on Saturday as the day started with lots of laughter and awe as Magicians of Québec Magic Festival performed one-on-one for the participants at the Old Timers Breakfast! The Closing session not only covered the bylaws report and voting, it included the inspirational messages from our current and incoming International Presidents, David Bruns and Jim Kondrasuk. The finale was the President's Banquet and Ball where many danced the night away to music sang by local singer Julie Massicotte accompanied by guitar player Alain Ricard.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2016 Junior Optimist International Convention in Québec, Canada was the largest convention since 2006 in Nashville, Tennessee. The convention consisted of daily group activities, focus groups and workshops including the following topics: teambuilding, marketing, social media, fundraising/club projects, motivation, learning French, awards, networking, Club structure, District Advisor/Chair training and many more. From the group outing in Old Québec City to the President's banquet, many connections and friendships were made.



[2016 JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION HAD ITS OWN GEOFILTER ON SNAPCHAT!]

The TOP FIVE Districts with the most attendees:

1. Québec East – North Shore
2. Central Ontario
3. Iowa
4. California South
5. Ohio

Thank you to all volunteers and Members for making the 2016 Junior Optimist International Convention a success! Stay tuned for information about the next year's convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at www.junioroptimist.org.



16 • The Optimist



On Friday, 2016-17 International President Jim Kondrasuk and his guest Jean Nadeau kicked off the day with a special training breakfast for Club Presidents-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect followed by a morning business session. The First Business session was rewarding and informative as awards were presented and keynote speaker Swen Nater briefly shared his life's experiences and many words of advice to live by. Immediately after Swen Nater's speech, participants headed off to the "New France Festival" themed Appreciation Luncheon. Attendees enjoyed a performance by École de cirque de Québec and had photos ops with representatives from La Petite noblesse de la Nouvelle-France! The excitement continued as everyone was treated to a visit to the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec including an opportunity to walk through the opening of the only holy door in the Americas. A gigantic cake representing the Canada Day Celebration was available for all to share!



What a great way to spend a few days away from home – having fun, learning and sharing ideas with over 1,000 other Members of our Optimist Family! A true Optimist Experience where Optimism was Rediscovered. **Thank you everyone that attended and to every volunteer that made the event successful, especially Claire LaBreche and Daniel Fortine on the Host Area Committee!**

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JIM KONDRASUK
President



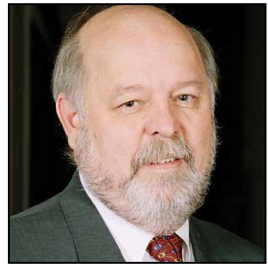
NICK PRILLAMAN
President-Elect



DAVE BRUNS
Immediate Past President



MADISON O'HARA WICKHAM
Junior Optimist President



BENNY ELLERBE
Executive Director



JUDY BOYD
Director



SUE CRESWELL
Director



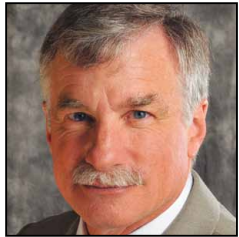
REBECCA BUTLER MONA
Director



ADRIAN ELCOCK
Director



NICOLE PAQUETTE
Director



MARK WEINSOFF
Director



DON CRALL
OIF President



NINA STRICKLAND
CCOF President

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



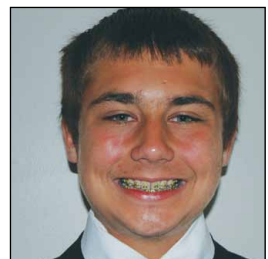
MADISON O'HARA WICKHAM
President



LOGAN CLEMENTE
Past President



AVERY JORGENSEN
Director



MATHEW NACEV
Director

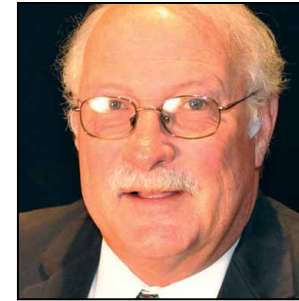


NIYATI SHAH
Director



ALLISON WILSON
Director

MID ATLANTIC REGION



LAWRENCE E. KELLEY JR.
Vice President



GENE BLANCHET
Kentucky-West Virginia



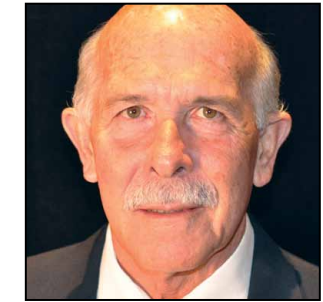
GAIL HEADLEY
Capital Virginia



JAMES HART
North Carolina East



JOHN LAURENTS SR.
North Carolina West

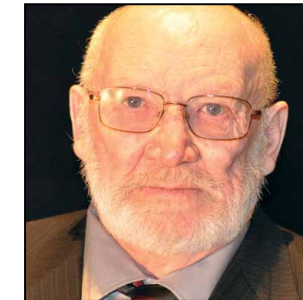


DALE HOFFERT
Maryland-South Delaware

NORTHEAST & GREAT LAKES REGION



GEORGE CLARKE
Vice President



JESSE RUMBLE
Central Ontario



TRACY HUXLEY
Southwestern Ontario



LARRY HAYNES
Midwestern Ontario



MICHAEL DAMIANO
New York-New England



MONETTA FOSTER
Michigan



LAVERA SEYMOUR
Atlantic Central

SOUTHEAST REGION



DANIEL RICH
Vice President



DAVID ARROYO
South Florida



PAMELA BLACK
Alabama-Mississippi



RUDY CORN
GATEway



VIRGINIA RICKER
South Carolina



LOUIS KINCHELOE
North Florida



DAVE WILSON
Caribbean

SOUTHWEST REGION



VENUS SANFORD
Vice President



CAROL HODGES
South Texas



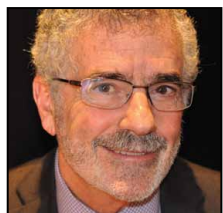
CURTIS EVANS
Oklahoma



MARLENE NATOLI
Kansas



BRON AUSTIN DEAL
North Texas



PAUL SIMON
Colorado-Wyoming

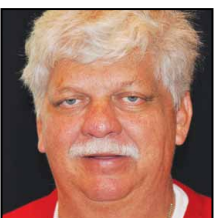


DONNA GALLOWAY
TennARK



CECI MEDINA
New Mexico-West Texas

MIDDLE AMERICA REGION



CHARLES DAVIS JR.
Vice President



JOSEPH SHELTON
West Missouri



DAVID OSBORNE
Indiana South



CHERIE GENTRY
Ohio



LISTER FLORENCE JR.
East Missouri



TODD MCMILLIN
Indiana North



RUTH DEL RE
Illinois

GREAT PLAINS REGION



SUSAN FIX
Vice President



JOSHUA ZAIDEL
Southern Wisconsin



SUSAN CARLSON
Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan



GORD CURRIE
Alberta-Montana-Saskatchewan
& Northern Wyoming



DENNY PHARES
Iowa



TERRY GORMAN
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota



JUDITH KLUGE
Nebraska

WEST COAST REGION



WILLIAM FRENCH JR.
Vice President



NOVA SIPE
Arizona



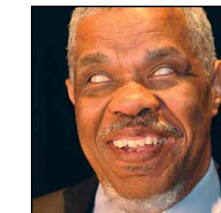
RICHARD MATKIN
Pacific Northwest



PHYLLIS CAUGHNAN
Pacific Central



TERRY MCWEENEY
Pacific Southwest



DANA LAMON
Pacific Southwest



ALAN AEGERTER
California South

SAINT LAWRENCE REGION



JEAN PAQUET
Vice President



MARTIN MAHEUX
Québec East-North Shore



BERNARD LABRECQUE
Québec East-Acadia



MARCEL LAVOIE
Québec South



SUZANNE POIRIER
Eastern Ontario



ROGER GRANDBOIS
Québec West



PIERRE-PAUL GEMME
Québec Central

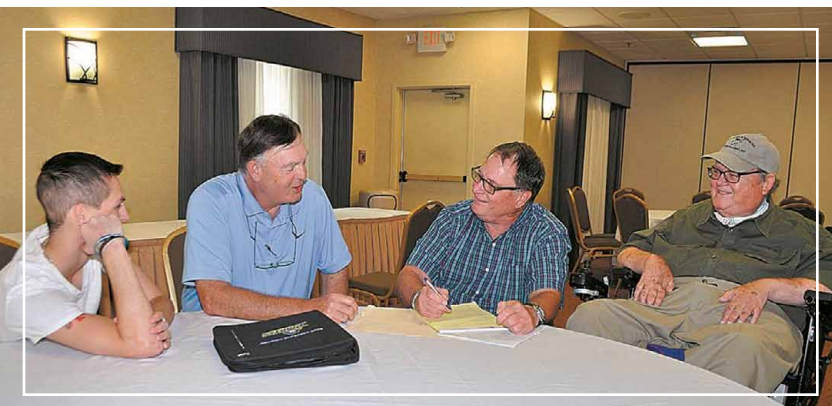
NEW OPTIMIST CLUB

BUILT AROUND JUNIOR GOLF

Courtesy of *The Nashville Graphic* –

Written by: Amanda Clark, Graphic Staff Writer

A group of local men have formed a new Optimist Club whose primary goal is to promote junior golf. The Mahler Thorp International Optimist Sports Club was chartered on April 26 with 35 Members attending. The Club is a first with Optimist International in that membership is not limited to any specific geographical area. The Club will serve to help coordinate the Mahler Thorp Memorial NC East District Qualifier for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.



The NC East District held three qualifiers. One was held on March 12-13 in Chapel Hill at UNC Finley Golf Course and the other two were held on June 20 at Belmont in Rocky Mount and Wedgewood in Wilson, North Carolina.

Junior golfers, both boys and girls ages 10 to 18, entered the tournament with the best advancing to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, to play in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. The North Carolina East District presented three golfers with paid entry fees and travel expenses. The following North Carolina golfers attended the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships: Nick Rubino, Cade Hancock, Jack Towarnicky, Trey Capps, Bryan Fang, Tyler Jones, Zachary Davis, Christopher Sperrazza, Bryson Boyette, Michael Coe, Natalie Petersen and Madison Elliott. Also attending the Championship was Ryan Macri of Raleigh, who qualified through the Greg Norman Champions Golf Academy Open, an Optimist Junior Tour Event. Those exempt from having to play in a qualifier due to being top finishers in past Optimist Junior Golf Tournaments were Akshay Bhatia and Patrick Stephenson. Elizabeth Nguyen received an automatic exemption for applying for the Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Award. She was judged on her grade point average, standardized test scores, academic awards, Community Service involvement and writing an essay.

At the Championship, top finishers from North Carolina were Akshay Bhatia from Wake Forest placed 2nd and Christopher Sperrazza from Raleigh placed 3rd in the boys 14-15 age division. In the Boys 16-18 age division, Patrick Stephenson of Four Oaks placed 4th. Patrick Stephenson and Natalie Petersen were also selected as one of the two teams representing the USA this year in the OPTIMIST World Cup - they placed 4th out of 13 World Cup teams.

"We've got two courses involved in this," said David Hodges, NC East District Chairman for the NC East District Optimist Junior Golf. "This tournament is our focus now."

The Club is named after Mahler Thorp, who was a Rocky Mount native and Member of the Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club. Thorp was killed in 2013 in an automobile accident.

Hodges said the golf tournament is about giving youth the opportunity to play golf.

Eric Norville serves as Vice-President, Director of Junior Golf for the Club. Norville was an avid golfer when an MRI showed a brain tumor at the age of 17. Norville had surgery to partially remove the tumor, but he was diagnosed with Stage IV Antiplastic Medullablastoma. Norville is only the third in the nation whose tumor went from malignant to benign with treatment.

Norville is working hard to get back to his golf game. In the meantime, he's working with the Mahler Thorp International Optimist Sports Club to help make the golf tournament a success.

Hodges said the goal of Optimist is to get all kids involved, including those who are disabled.

"We want to bring golf to all kids, even if you are disabled. We want to bring you the opportunity," Hodges said.

Bill Brantley, of Rocky Mount, serves as a Club Vice-President and will head up the Club's program of advancing golf for children with disabilities.

Ken Dixon, a past North Carolina East District Junior Golf Chair, serves as President of the Mahler Thorp International Sports Club.

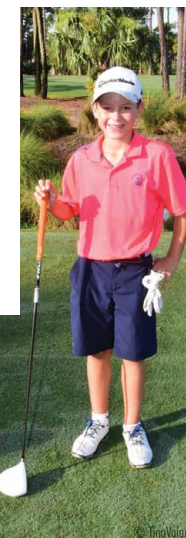
The Club's motto is "Friend of Youth" and since forming, the Club has participated in several golf tournaments, serving hot dogs, chips and sodas at no charge to all golfers, spectators, coaches and parents.

"It's just a service that we do," Hodges said.

The Club will soon be looking into the possibility of bringing a First Tee Program to the area.

For information about the Mahler Thorp International Sports Club, email David Hodges at dhodgesoptimist@gmail.com.

2016 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS



Congratulations to the 2016 champions of the Optimist Junior Golf Championships!
The three-phase tournament at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida began July 20 and ended August 4. With a strong field of golfers featuring players from 42 states and 22 total nations, the level of play was impressive on the courses.

BOYS 16-18

1. Connor Coffee (Peachtree, Georgia) 75-68-67-74 – 284 *
2. Thomas Allkins (Lake Mary, Florida) 69-72-70-73 – 284
3. Adrien Pendaries (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France) 72-73-68-72 – 285

HOLE IN ONE - Congratulations to Connor Brown (Chandler, Arizona) for acing #5 par 3 on the Palmer Course during the final round 3!

GIRLS 15-18

1. Amy Matsuoka (Newport Beach, California) 76-72-72-69 – 289 *
2. Ana La Collado Diaz (Jalapa, Mexico) 76-71-72-70 – 289
3. Marissa Balish (Allison Park, Pennsylvania) 72-76-72-71 – 291

BOYS 14-15

1. Austin Greaser (Vandalia, Ohio) 74-67-68 – 209
2. Akshay Bhatia (Wake Forest, North Carolina) 68-75-69 – 212
3. Christopher Sperrazza (Raleigh, North Carolina) 73-73-69 – 215

GIRLS 13-14

1. Agustina Gomez Cisterna (Argentina) 68-71-74 – 213 *
2. Kan Bunnabodee (Thailand) 75-71-67 – 213
3. Grace Kyung Lee (Honolulu, Hawaii) 72-74-75 – 221

BOYS 10-11

1. Allan Kournikova (Palm Beach, Florida) 69-73-69 – 211
2. Chanachon Chokprajakchat (Bangkok, Thailand) 73-68-72 – 213
3. Zachary Ong (Scarsdale, New York) 74-73-68 – 215

HOLE IN ONE - Congratulations to Ryan Walsh (Clarkson Valley, Missouri) for acing #15 par 3 on the Champion Course during his 1st round!

GIRLS 10-12

1. Alejandra Ferrer (Queretaro, Qro. Mexico) 73-70-65 – 208
2. Natacha Tunwannarux (Bangkok, Thailand) 78-72-71 – 221
3. Apich Chirakunakorn (Sriracha, Thailand) 72-78-75 – 225

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, parents and participants for making the annual event a tremendous success!

Thank you to the following sponsors:

- UNDER ARMOUR
- PGA NATIONAL RESORT AND SPA
- PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION
- ARNOLD PALMER GOLF MANAGEMENT
- SEI COMMUNICATIONS
- PRIZE POSSESSIONS



NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR Youth Safety

Submitted by:
Taylor Ewald & Brooke
Gettman, Norfolk,
Nebraska Junior
Optimist Club



TAYLOR EWALD AND BROOKE GETTMAN LEADING THE NEBRASKA SAFE DRIVING SUMMIT

If you were to tell us that two pieces of paper handed to us by our Junior Optimist Advisor, Mark Claussen, in the guidance office during our sophomore year of high school would impact the next five years of our lives, we would call you crazy. Those two pieces of paper introduced us to an organization called NOYS, the National Organizations for Youth Safety. NOYS promotes safety and encourages youth leadership and empowerment through its many partnerships. Junior Optimist is one of NOYS' most recent partnerships. On those two pieces of paper given to us was an opportunity to host a safe driving rally for our high school as part of a NOYS youth leadership initiative. We saw this as a chance to learn more about the distracted driving epidemic that kills eight people and injures an additional 1,161 people each day (according to the CDC). Unbeknownst to us, this would only be the beginning of our safe driving advocacy as Junior Optimist and NOYS Members.

Through a lot of perseverance and organization, our Junior Optimist Club planned two safe driving rallies with the support of NOYS and other local public health organizations. Our rallies were designed to show our peers the dangers of distracted driving through a drunk driving simulator course, seatbelt convincer, texting and driving simulator course, and impaired driving goggles. The success of these rallies showed us the great effect that Junior Optimist and NOYS can have on our peers and community.

With advocacy experience under our belt, we decided to apply and were accepted to be a youth leadership team for NOYS in 2013. Three years later, we are honored to still work with this organization as peer mentors, a position we took on last summer. Because of our roles with NOYS, we have been honored to attend NOYS' annual Safe Driving Summit in Washington, D.C. in 2013 and 2015. Some of our most memorable experiences from our time in Washington, D.C. include speaking with Senator Mike Johanns, Senator Deb Fischer, and Representative Adrian Smith on Capitol Hill regarding safe driving. Additionally, we toured the National Transportation Safety Board headquarters and were able to see firsthand how they investigate civil transportation accidents. During our time in D.C., we also heard from many safety officials, such as Mark Rosekind from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and Deborah Hersman, CEO of the National Safety Council.

We carried our experiences with NOYS back home to Nebraska where we shared our newfound knowledge with our Junior Optimist Club and Norfolk Noon Optimist Club. They, along with NOYS, helped us host the 2014 Nebraska Safe Driving Summit. This statewide summit, along with our ongoing safety efforts in our community, helped our Junior Optimist Club to earn the National Safety Council Teen Driving Safety Leadership Award in 2014. It was an exciting experience to accept the award on behalf of our Club at the National Safety Council's award ceremony in San Diego, California. It was just another reminder that the power of Junior Optimist is not limited to local boundaries and our work does not go unnoticed.

Looking back on the last 5 years, we would have never imagined the opportunities that have come our way because of Junior Optimist and NOYS. We didn't always know that we wanted to be safe driving advocates, but Junior Optimist made us realize that. Not only did we experience growth and empowerment within ourselves, but we also inspired others to practice safe driving habits and shared the mission of Optimist International. When we work to bring out the best in others, we also bring out the best in ourselves. By promoting traffic safety among our peers, we learned so much more about ourselves. We want to give recognition to the Norfolk, Nebraska Junior Optimist Club that instilled our dedication to traffic safety and facilitated many great opportunities for us. Our passion for safe driving is something that we will continue to cultivate for the rest of our lives.



JUNIOR OPTIMIST ADVISOR MARK CLAUSSEN, BROOKE GETTMAN, TAYLOR EWALD, AND OFFICER BILL PRICE OF THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL PICTURED WITH THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL TEEN SAFE DRIVING LEADERSHIP AWARD AT THE 50TH DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES AWARDS BANQUET



SENATOR DEB FISCHER, TAYLOR EWALD, BROOKE GETTMAN, AND SENATOR MIKE JOHANNS PICTURED OUTSIDE OF SENATOR FISCHER'S OFFICE ON CAPITOL HILL



WAPAKONETA HIGH SCHOOL OCTAGON CLUB:

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE!

Submitted by: Terry & Linda Blosser, Jackie Martell & Pam Lange, Advisors of the Wapakoneta High School Octagon Club, Ohio District

The Octagon Club of Wapakoneta High School recently celebrated its 30th year in existence. The WHS Octagon Club was sponsored in 1986 by the Wapakoneta Men's Breakfast Optimist Club, making it one of the original founding and longest running Junior Optimist Clubs in the nation.

The success of the Wapakoneta High School Octagon Club is in great part due to the steadfast commitment and leadership of Terry & Linda Blosser, who served as advisors to the Club for the first 25 years.

"We are often asked why we were the advisors for the Octagon Club for so many years. After working many years with a foreign exchange student program, we realized how important and how wonderful teenagers are, so we became involved with the Octagon Club," Linda stated. "The most rewarding part of being the advisors was getting to know the students, seeing them start as freshmen, shy and unsure of themselves, and to see them grow, change, become leaders, and have great self-esteem. We have followed many of the Members on into their adult lives and we were amazed at how much many of them have accomplished. The years we spent with the Octagon Club were the most meaningful and rewarding years! We learned so much from the teens and will be forever thankful for this wonderful opportunity."

"That was one thing that she thoroughly enjoyed," Terry says. "She was the advisor, and of course the way things worked in our household, if I was involved she was involved. She always loved working with high school-aged kids. So many of the kids just made her day. They volunteered and visited the residents at The Gardens Assisted Living facility and she loved that. The ones you could count on were the ones who were very involved and managed their time well. We cleaned up the football stadium after every game on Saturday mornings, it was great."

Terry's pride for their involvement with the Octagon Club of Wapakoneta High School is certainly valid. "It has lasted for so long and reached so many kids. Over the years, many of the students that were in Octagon have told me that they've been prompted to give back to their communities, to volunteer, and to stay positive," he says. "You really don't know the effects of something like that until years down the road. Now we're seeing the next generation, the kids of those parents getting involved, which is just wonderful."

This past January, while we were compiling this story, we suddenly lost Linda to a complication after heart surgery. Her beautiful presence remains stronger than ever in our community to those who knew her well, and knew how much she loved life.

For the past three years since the Blossers' retirement, the Club has been under the leadership of co-advisor's, Jackie Martell and Pam Lange. Pam and Jackie both agree that they had two amazing mentors in the Blossers, who had the Club structured in a way it was easy to pick up and run with it.

WHS Octagon Club has a long history of service activities that truly enrich their surrounding community. Students choose projects that are of special interest to them and this past school year the activities included:

- Nine Saturday morning stadium clean ups after Wapakoneta High School football games
- Monthly activities at The Gardens Assisted Living facility including an ice cream social, Mardi Gras party, and prom fashion show
- Highway clean up
- Recycling with the Wapakoneta Breakfast Optimist Club
- Assisted passing out toys at the Children's Hometown Holiday
- Donated over 250 coats for "Coats for Kids" Drive
- Raised over \$1,500 for the American Cancer Society by hosting a "PINK OUT" t-shirt fundraiser
- Crisis Center Food & Supply Drive featuring a Star War's movie night complete with characters
- Assist at the Equestrian Center Therapy Program
- Assist at the Summer Moon Festival
- Set up and tear down for the Wapakoneta Noon Optimist Craft Show
- Participate in Miracle Meal's Dinner and Family Night
- Prepare and serve a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for over 100 Wapakoneta High School staff members
- Provide a \$500 college scholarship to a senior Octagon Member

Participation in Wapakoneta High School Octagon Club allows students to learn the value of community service and experience the intrinsic rewards of serving others. Our schools and local businesses support our Club, helping to empower these students to become future leaders.

Students develop skills in leadership, team building, goal setting, and how to plan and organize to accomplish tasks. The Club has Members in grades 8 – 12. They hold regular meetings the 1st & 3rd Friday every month to choose projects that are meaningful to them and make a difference in their community.

TEACH BY EXAMPLE

Optimist International Foundation President Don Crall, along with the rest of the OIF Board, is helping spread the mission of Optimist International President Jim Kondrasuk's theme "Together We Can" through this year's theme **"TEACH BY EXAMPLE."**



Be on the lookout for Foundation programs and incentives happening throughout the 2016-17 Optimist year. You can support the Foundation individually in a variety of ways, such as the Dime-A-Day program, Presidents Club, Women's Philanthropy Council, and many more. When your Club donates \$365 or \$1 a day, your Club will receive this year's Club Banner patch. The Foundation is also here to assist Clubs through programs such as the Club Campaign Fund.

If you have questions about any Foundation programs or incentives, please contact the Foundation office at (800) 500-8130 or visit our website at www.oifoundation.org.

OIF ANNOUNCES BOARD OPENING

The Optimist International Foundation is seeking nominations for an upcoming opening on the Foundation Board of Directors. The four-year term for the Board Member will begin October 1, 2017. Nominations will be accepted on the Foundation's website, www.oifoundation.org, until December 31, 2016.

The open Board position is for a Member at large. Members interested in nominating themselves or others may visit the Foundation website to submit an application. Please review the candidate qualifications before submitting a nomination.

For more information, call (800) 500-8130 or visit www.oifoundation.org.

OPTIMIST FOUNDATIONS

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



Don Crall
PRESIDENT



Don Sievers
PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2008-09



Sandy Williams
PRESIDENT ELECT



Melvin Bannister
TREASURER



Bill Meyers
DIRECTOR



Craig Boring
SECRETARY/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation



CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION



The first Gala organized by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation to recognize scholarship award winners took place on Tuesday, June 28, at Le Parlementaire Restaurant located in the Parliament Building in Québec City. The event, held in conjunction with the Optimist International 2016 Convention, raised \$10,000 for the World Oratorical Championships. It also highlighted Olga Farman, honorary President of the Gala and winner of both the Oratorical Contest at the District level in 1991-92 and the Essay Contest at the International level in 1993-94.

Following Farman's recent nomination as managing partner for the Norton Rose Fulbright's Québec office, the young lawyer was profiled in an article published in Le Journal de Québec, in which she speaks of the importance of these contests in her career. Her passion for law goes back to her early childhood. Her successful participation in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest led a family friend, the late Judge Lemieux, to say that "someday, Olga will be a lawyer." Her background could have led her to a great career in litigation, but she finally took another path after she completed a Master of Business Administration degree. She discovered business development strategies, as well as communications, human resources and financial management. Beyond supporting and providing legal advices, she is passionate about making sure that her views will have positive impacts in organizations. She does not only advise, she assists companies in their growth strategy. Giving back is a part of her, and it shows in her work.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF WOMEN IN OPTIMISM



Like Olga Farman, women both inspiring and inspired by Optimists' values will be honored by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation's 2016-17 campaign. As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of Women in Optimism, Nina Strickland – the Canadian Foundation's first female President – launches, with enthusiasm, a special pin. As an experienced gardener, Strickland has chosen a rose as the campaign's emblem.

It is a very relevant symbol, because cultivating the Foundation will result in flourishing youth.

CLUB GRANT

Has this summer inspired you with ideas to help your community's youth bloom? Apply through the CCOF Club Grant program before December 31 for a chance to receive a \$500 grant for setting up your community project.

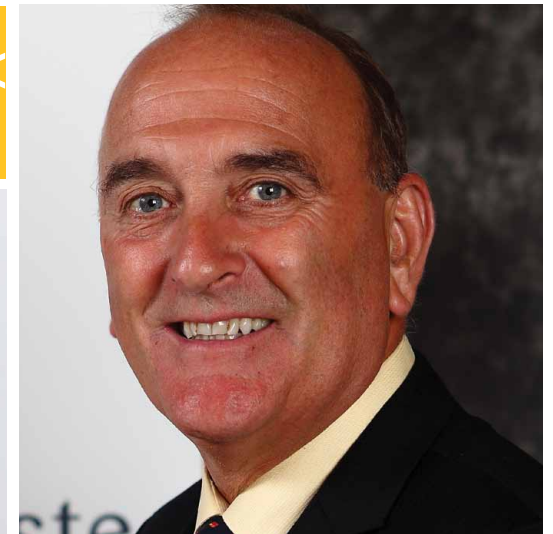
With this grant, the Vars Optimist Club hosted a Canada Day party. This free event, organized for the 10th year, brought together 1,500 community members celebrating their pride to be Canadian and Franco-Ontarians.

Visit <http://ccof-foec.org/> for more information about the CCOF Club Grant program.

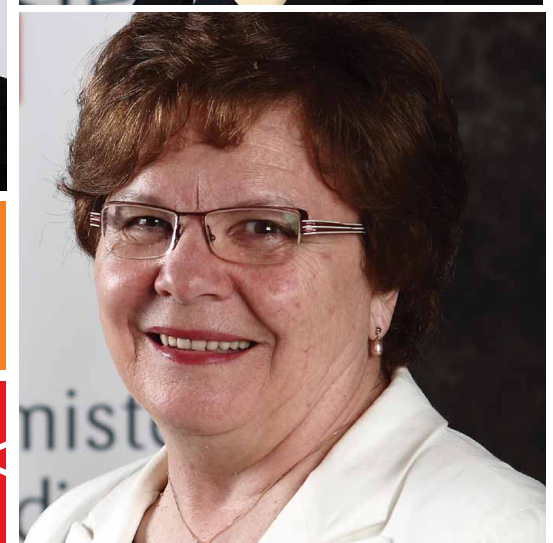
OPTIMIST FOUNDATIONS

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION

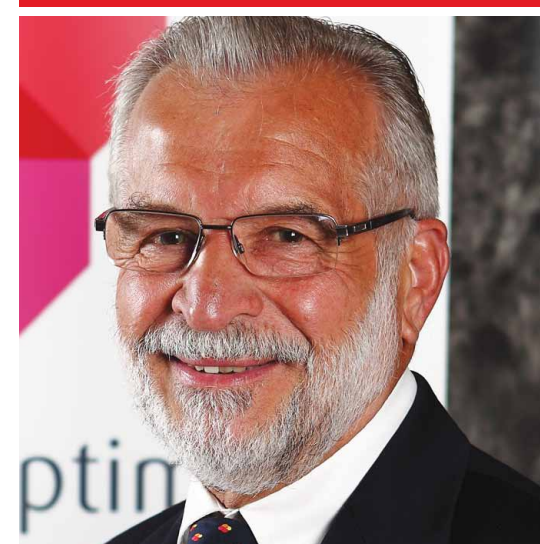
Yves Berthiaume
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



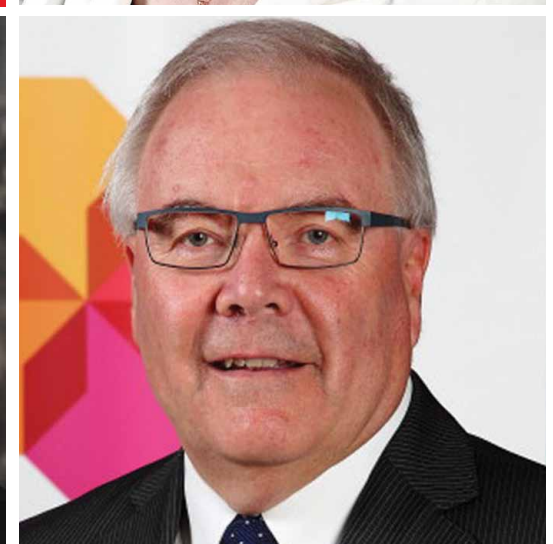
Nina Strickland
PRESIDENT



Raymonde Michaud
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Vince Parker
DIRECTOR



Rod McKendrick
DIRECTOR

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

619	Claude Vaillancourt	621	Dale Fox	623	Frank Fowler
620	Earl W. Miller	622	Tony Bell		

Top Ten as of June 30, 2016

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	William Lundquist	\$35.01
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$16.03
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$12.86
Alabama-Mississippi	John Varnado	\$11.91
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$11.04
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$10.65
Capital-Virginia	Barbara Grizzard	\$10.60
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$9.28
South Texas	Irvin Williams	\$8.91
New Mexico-West Texas	Susan Sears	\$8.08

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Arizona	William Lundquist	\$27,379.93
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$24,591.22
Michigan	Barry Burnham	\$24,343.67
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$18,052.50
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$16,914.26
GATEway	Joey Richardson	\$16,292.94
Iowa	Cynthia Barber	\$15,842.85
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$15,723.30
South Texas	Irvin Williams	\$14,900.69
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$13,530.80

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Rod McKendrick	\$31.07
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$17.18
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Wesley Shewchuk	\$16.34

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Rod McKendrick	\$26,126.96
Southwestern Ontario	John Post & Gordon Brownlee	\$20,423.15
Québec Center	Manon Daigneault	\$18,708.90



Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

Donor Listings

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

GOLDEN BENEFACTOR - \$50,000

ARIZONA
Theodore F. Gaffin

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Denver-Monaco South, CO

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Optimist Club of Regina, SK
DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA
Optimist Club of North Suburban, MN
MICHIGAN
Marc D. Katz
NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Optimist Club of Whiteville, NC
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of West Lorne, ON

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

EAST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Clayton, MO
GATEWAY
Optimist Club of Macon-Riverside, GA
WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Merrill, WI

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

CAPITAL VIRGINIA
Durward and Barbara Rushforth
COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Loveland-Breakfast, CO
INDIANA SOUTH
Optimist Club of Indianapolis, IN
IOWA
Margaret Hopkins
MICHIGAN
Jerry and Diane Kelley
Robert and Jane Schiller
NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
William E. Danner
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Optimist Club of Vancouver-North Shore, BC

QUÉBEC SOUTH
Christiane et Lionel Desjardins-Saucier
Club Optimiste de Granby, QC
Club Optimiste de Sherbrooke-Centre
Estrie, QC
WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Two Rivers, WI

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ARIZONA
Michael S. Toepper
CALIFORNIA SOUTH
Optimist Club of Imperial Beach, CA
GATEWAY
Anthony B. Bell
INDIANA SOUTH
Michael L. Underwood
IOWA
Dennis Phares
MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
Kenneth and Fern Bollinger
OKLAHOMA
Walter C. Gwin
QUÉBEC CENTER
Bernard Giroux
QUÉBEC SOUTH
Claude Vaillancourt
Club Optimiste du Lac-Brôme, QC
SOUTH FLORIDA
John B. Basher
SOUTH TEXAS
Optimist Club of the Greater Copperas Cove Area, TX

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
Thomas H. Howell
Vera W. Hendrix
ARIZONA
Nova Sipe
CENTRAL ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Garden City, ON

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA
Cheryl Bergstrom
Timothy J. Goetz
EASTERN ONTARIO
Erik Gravelle
GATEWAY
Jimmie R. Briones
Anita B. Still
ILLINOIS
Paul H. Hellrich
IOWA
Kelly M. Hansen
Leanne and Wayne Schneckloth
Optimist Club of Dubuque-Morning, IA
Optimist Club of Leon, IA
MICHIGAN
DeeAnn Dopp
Theresa Jarratt
Carmen Jonaitis
NEBRASKA
Corinne Wastell
NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
Gary L. Williams
NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Optimist Club of South Johnston, NC
NORTH FLORIDA
Shari Pudles
James C. Weatherbee
NORTH TEXAS
Kevin J. Ailara
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
James and Lynn Oliver
QUÉBEC CENTER
Johanne Guay
QUÉBEC SOUTH
Pauline Langelier
Martin Larouche
QUÉBEC WEST
Jocelyne Morin
SOUTH FLORIDA
Optimist Club of Sebring, FL
WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN
Susan K. Carlson
Ann M. Sheahan

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



"I am a great salesman and you have the potential to be a great customer. Together, we can achieve great things!"



"Yes, I'm talking to a chocolate bar. It doesn't have all the cool features of a big phone, but it costs a lot less."

Little Susie, a six-year-old, complained, "Mother, I've got a stomach ache." "That's because your stomach is empty," the mother replied. "You would feel better if you had something in it." That afternoon, her father came home complaining that he had a severe headache all day. Susie perked up, "That's because it's empty," she said. "You'd feel better if you had something in it."

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named

Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes."

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

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 youth, look no further than the Optimist scholarship contests!

The Essay, Oratorical and Communication for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) Contests 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!

HERE ARE THE SCHOLARSHIP TOPICS FOR THE 2016-17 YEAR:

- 1 Essay: "Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges"
- 2 Oratorical and CCDHH: "What the World Gains from Optimism"

START PLANNING YOUR CLUB'S CONTESTS TODAY AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON THE LIFE OF A CHILD!



CONNECT WITH OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL!



FACEBOOK

[Facebook.com/optimist.international](https://www.facebook.com/optimist.international)



TWITTER

[@optimistorg](https://twitter.com/optimistorg)



YOUTUBE

[YouTube.com/OptimistIntl](https://www.youtube.com/OptimistIntl)



LINKEDIN

[Optimist.org/linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/optimist.org)

Optimists can connect in many ways through service, friendship and Optimism!

Optimists can also connect through social media.

Optimist International utilizes several official social media platforms to post important updates, newsworthy events, membership initiatives and interesting topics & tips.

Make sure to follow us on your personal social media channels and also connect your Club's Facebook pages, Twitter handles and YouTube channels!

