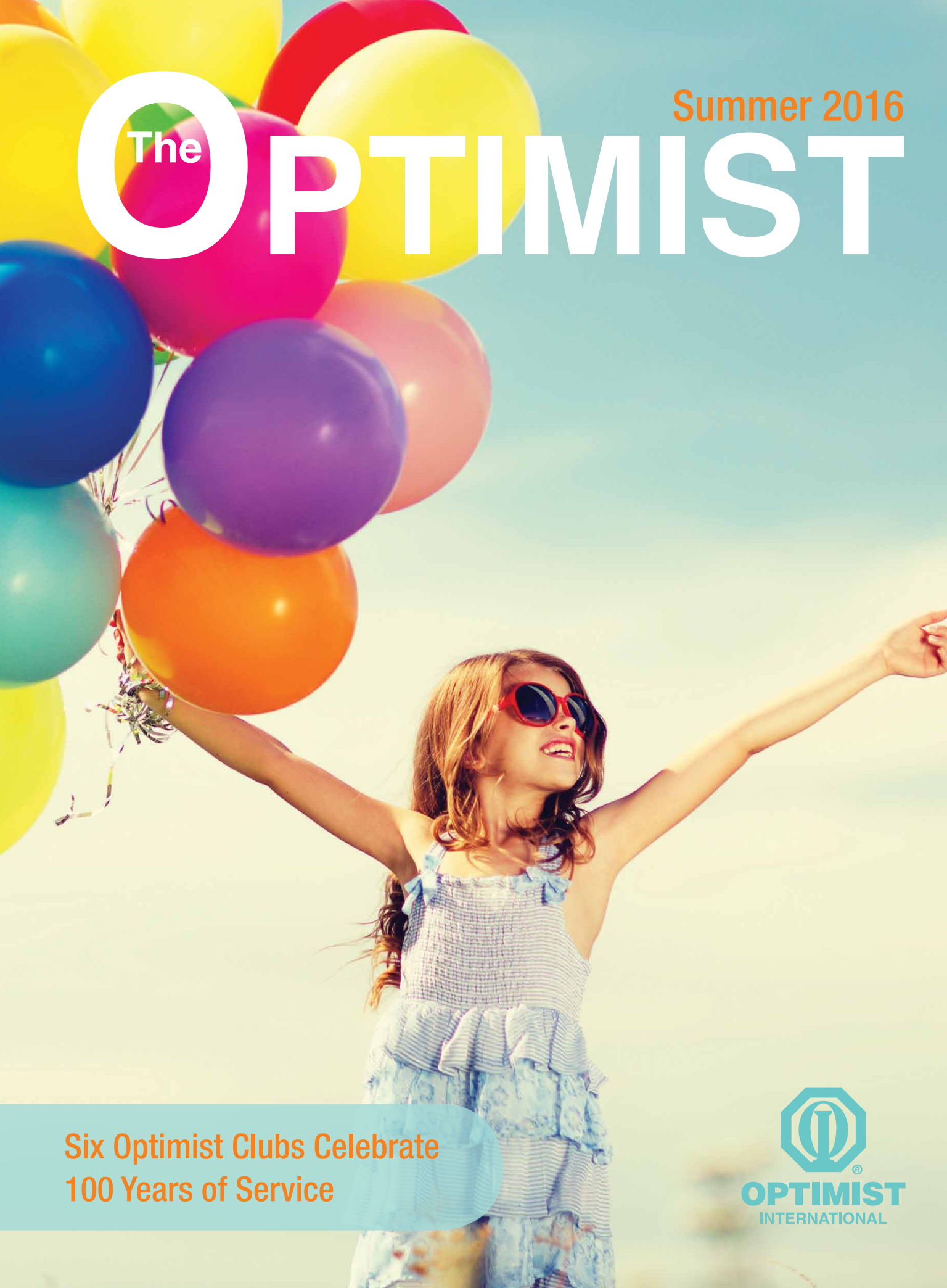


Summer 2016

The OPTIMIST



Six Optimist Clubs Celebrate
100 Years of Service



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION APPRECIATION LUNCHEON ENTERTAINMENT

ECOLE NATIONALE DE CIRQUE (NATIONAL CIRCUS SCHOOL)

FRIDAY, JULY 1 11:45AM-1:30PM

THEME: NEW FRANCE FESTIVAL



A SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

The Ecole nationale de cirque (National Circus School) is an institution for higher education located in Montreal with a primary mission to prepare circus artists. Internationally renowned for training, the school opens its doors to more than 150 students from all over the country and around the world.

www.ecolenationaledecirque.ca



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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The Optimist

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On the Cover Six Clubs will reach their 100th anniversary in 2016. To learn more about the Clubs, see pages 8-13.

CHALK TALKS

WITH COACH DAVE

Investing in Our Future—
RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

Over the past several months, thousands of students around the world have participated in the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the Optimist Essay Contest, and the Optimist Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Moreover, in a few short weeks, Optimist International will hold its Oratorical World Championships and Junior Golf Tournament. At the same time, local adult and junior Optimist Clubs are busy conducting projects to bring out the BEST in youth as well as the BEST in their communities.

It is important to remember that we could not sponsor these great programs—as well as many others—without the generosity of our Optimist Foundations. Both the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) provide substantial support for Optimist International's programs and local Optimist Clubs. As an ex-officio member of our Foundations' Board of Directors, it has been a pleasure to view first-hand how they work each day to seek, receive, and manage gifts for the benefit of our wonderful organization and the children we are so blessed to serve.

Over the past five years, the OIF and the CCOF have awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to students participating in Optimist programs. These students are attending colleges and universities across the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. During the same time period, our Foundations have awarded more than \$1 million in grants to local Optimist Clubs, Junior Optimist Clubs, and for various other charitable, literary, and educational activities.

In addition, the OIF and the CCOF support Optimist Clubs through Club Campaign and Pass Through/ Outsourcing Accounts, which allow Clubs to maximize their fundraising efforts for local programs. Likewise, through the Childhood Cancer Campaign, our Foundations are active in seeking, receiving, and managing funds used for the fight against pediatric cancer and related diseases. The Reel Optimist Video Contest is also a partnership between Optimist International and our Foundations.

It has been said that: "The question is not whether we can afford to invest in every child; it is whether we can afford not to." —Marian Wright Edelman



PRESIDENT DAVE BRUNS

Thanks to the OIF and the CCOF—as well as to all of the Optimists who support these great organizations—for making an important investment in children—
Right Here, Right Now!

Yours in Optimism,

Dave Bruns, 2015-16 President Optimist International

P.S. For more information, please visit
www.oifoundation.org or www.ccof-foec.org



OPTIMIST CLUB OF THE YEAR

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 Convention and Summit, etc.)
- Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns (i.e. NOW Program, Marketing Campaign, etc.)
- Increased Volunteer Member Base
- New Community Efforts

Overall Optimist Club of the Year

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

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

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

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



2013-14 CLUB OF THE YEAR - BAY CITY NOON OPTIMIST CLUB

2013-14 CLUB OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:

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

NEWS &

VIEWS



REEL OPTIMISM VIDEO CONTEST:

WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT CONVENTION

The 2016 Reel Optimism video contest received outstanding entries from adult Clubs, JOOI Clubs and other organizations and individuals from throughout North America. The 2016 contest topic was "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others." Finalists were determined in early May and Optimist Members and the general public were able to view, share and vote for their favorite video from May 10-31.

The winning videos will be shown during the upcoming International Convention in Québec City. Members representing the winning Clubs will be invited on stage to receive their \$1000 Club grants courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. Plus, new this year, an onsite vote will take place at convention to determine the winner of the "Best Overall" award and an additional \$500 bonus grant.

To view the videos of all of the finalists, visit Optimist.org/ReelOptimism or search the hashtag #ReelOptimism on Facebook or Twitter. The winning videos will also be announced on this webpage, in addition to the Optimist International Facebook page and Twitter handle after the International Convention.

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 February 1 and April 30, 2016:

Level VII

Robert Belton	CENON
John Blackwell	STX
Marguerite Fehseke	IA
Thomas H Howell	ALMS
Nancy Ryan	ALMS
Barbara Watson	CAR

Level X

Diana Cerwood	AC
Michel Dupuis	QENS
Charles Hayworth	NFL
Thomas H Howell	AL-MS
Curtis Merrill	COWY
Andre Morin	QENS
Kenneth Seymour	AC
LaVera Seymour	AC

ONLY THE SOUTHEAST REGION WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION THIS YEAR

For the election of 2016-17 International officers, there is only one contested election this year. This is for the Southeast Region Vice President-Elect. Therefore, only Clubs in the Southeast Region need to cast votes. Your Club's dues must be paid in full prior to being allowed to vote. Elections open online at 9:00 AM (EDT) / 8:00 AM (CDT) on Wednesday, June 1. Delegates from Clubs in the Southeast Region attending the International Convention in Québec City will be able to vote at a kiosk during regular convention office hours until election balloting closes at Noon (EDT) / 11:00 AM (CDT) on Friday, July 1.

2016-17 International President-Elect:

- Nick Prillaman (Atlanta, GA)

2016-17 International Vice Presidents-Elect:

- Northeast & Great Lakes Region: Bob McFadyen (Kitchener, ON)
- Southeast Region: Michael Goldman (Davie, FL) and Hal Sewell (Senoia, GA)
- Mid-Atlantic Region: Lou Anna Hardee (Greenville, NC)
- Middle America Region: Kathryn Underwood (Indianapolis, IN)
- Great Plains Region: Roger Lesofski (Great Falls, MT)
- Southwest Region: Ron Benson (Edgewater, CO)
- West Coast Region: James Pekny (Tucson, AZ)
- St. Lawrence Region: Robert Doyle (Ottawa, ON)

Three-year term to the International Board of Directors (2 to be elected):

- Nicole Paquette (Casselton, ND)
- Mark Weinsoff (Goleta, CA)

Online Officer Training

A Club President online training course and Lieutenant Governor online training course are available at www.optimisttraining.org. Both are available in English and French. These user-friendly courses feature interactive quizzes and pop-up resource materials. Each user will be guided, step-by-step, through the basic skills and actions needed to be a successful Club President or District Lieutenant Governor.

These training courses are not a replacement for the on-site training offered at District Conferences, District Conventions, and the Optimist International Convention. They were developed to augment this training in an effort to help participants better prepare themselves for these important leadership positions. To access these courses, go to www.optimisttraining.org, create a profile, and click on the appropriate course and follow the easy to follow instructions.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

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

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

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

These requirements must be submitted, along with substantiating documentation, to the 2015-16 District Leadership Development Chair Dropbox folder by October 5, 2016. The top three Chairs will be determined by taking the top percentages from requirements two, four and six.

THE TOP THREE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AS FOLLOWS:

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

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

FISCAL YEAR ENDED 9.30.2015

Submitted by: Karen Monville, Chair of the International Audit and Finance Committee

For the year ended September 30, 2015, the total Revenues were \$6,119,036; the total Expenses from Operations were (\$5,887,265); yielding a **surplus of Revenue over Operational Expenses of \$231,771.**

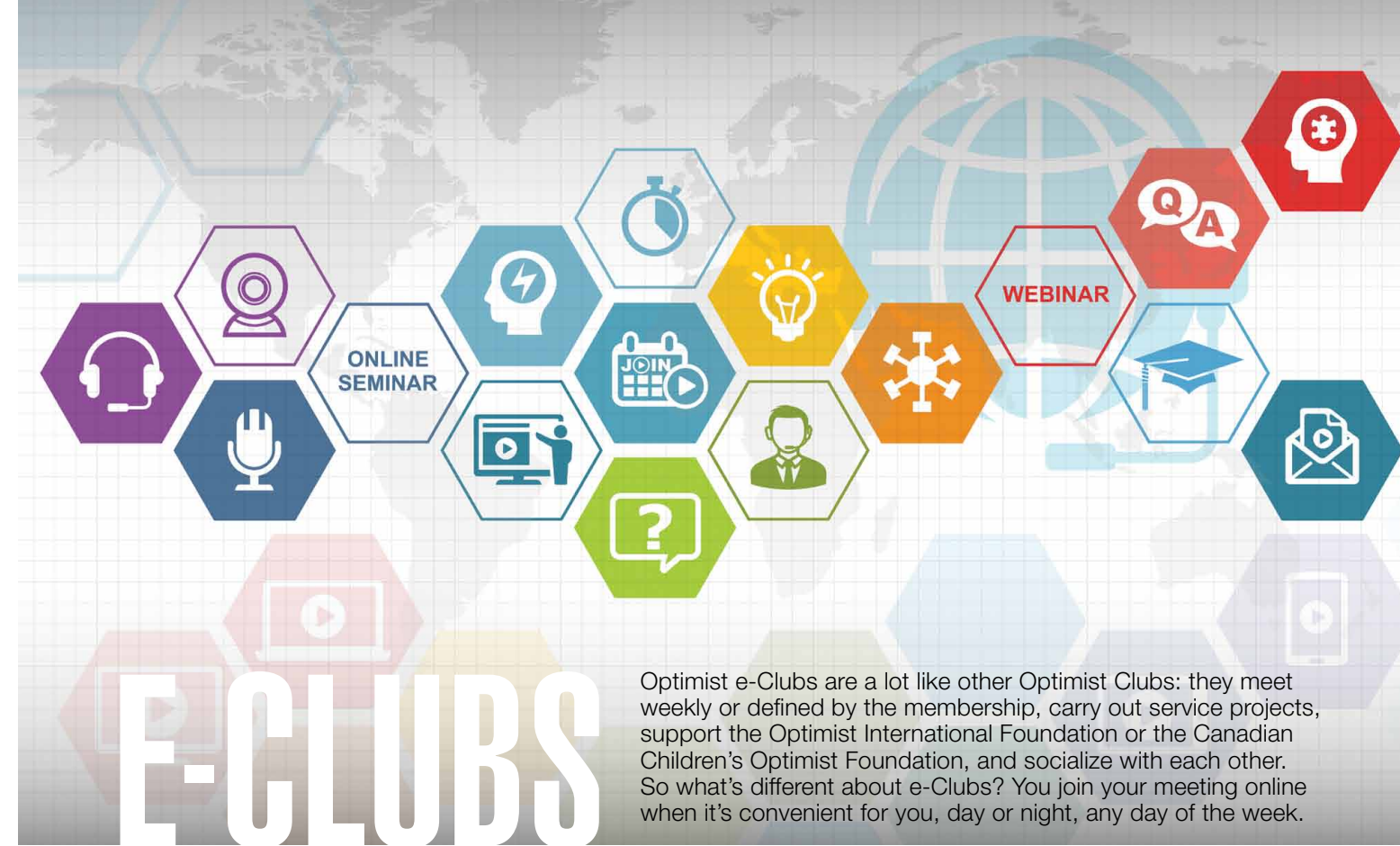
Nonoperational expenses included a Loss on Foreign Currency Translation of (\$152,239) along with an Unrealized Pension Loss of (\$76,394). In total, the organization's Unrestricted Net Assets grew by \$3,138 from \$1,286,607 at the beginning of the year to \$1,289,745 at the end of the year.

The Optimist International organization maintains conservative financial policies enabling us to fulfill our Mission of:

“ BY PROVIDING HOPE AND POSITIVE VISION, OPTIMIST BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOUTH, OUR COMMUNITIES AND OURSELVES. ”

Questions regarding Optimist International's finances are always welcome. A copy of Optimist International's Fiscal Year 2015 audited Financial Statements are available upon request or you may view them by going to the Optimist International website and clicking on Administration.

REVENUES		2015
Dues and Fees		\$4,054,581
International Convention		\$273,554
Youth Programs Foundation (JOOI & GOLF)		\$1,427,040
Grants and Donations		\$98,098
Sales of Supplies and Royalties		\$41,764
Other		\$223,999
TOTAL REVENUES		\$6,119,036
EXPENSES		2015
Programs		\$3,855,497
International Convention		\$382,843
Volunteer Leadership		\$610,594
General Management		\$1,038,331
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$5,887,265
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses from Operations		\$231,771
Loss on Foreign Currency Translation		(\$152,239)
Pension Plan Changes Other Than Net Periodic Benefit Cost		(\$76,394)
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets		\$3,138
Unrestricted Net Assets - Beginning of Year		\$1,286,607
Unrestricted Net Assets - End of Year		\$1,289,745



Optimist e-Clubs are a lot like other Optimist Clubs: they meet weekly or defined by the membership, carry out service projects, support the Optimist International Foundation or the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, and socialize with each other. So what's different about e-Clubs? You join your meeting online when it's convenient for you, day or night, any day of the week.

HOW DOES AN E-CLUB OPERATE?

E-Club Members use webinars, videoconferencing, message boards, instant messaging, or tools like Skype and Google Hangout to communicate. For example, a Club Member might post content online for that week's meeting, and then other Members join the discussion throughout the week. Some e-Club Members also meet in person at service projects, social activities or the Optimist International Convention or District Meetings and Conventions.

WHO CAN JOIN AN E-CLUB?

Members can be from anywhere in the world. Some e-Clubs focus their membership in a particular region or community.

AN E-CLUB COULD BE RIGHT FOR YOU IF YOU:

- Have a busy schedule and need a flexible meeting time
- Live in different places throughout the year
- Travel frequently
- Have limited mobility
- Live in an area without a nearby Optimist Club

HOW DO I START AN E-CLUB?

Forming an e-Club is very similar to forming any other Optimist Club. The only difference is that much or all of your planning and recruitment would be done by forms of electronic communication. The requirements and fees do not change.

Please contact the New Club Building or Membership Department at Optimist International to obtain more information about e-Clubs.

Here are some recommendations for creating a productive, viable e-Club:

- A dedicated website
- Founding Members who are able to manage the Club's website
- An online meeting platform to host meetings
- Private sections of the website that only Members can access to protect Members' online personal data
- Online financial transaction systems that allow Members to pay dues, make donations, or process payments

E-Clubs are responsible for all costs associated with purchasing a URL and hosting their website on the Internet.

CLUBS REACH 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

While Optimist International looks forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019, it is important to look back and celebrate its history. Early historical records indicate there were diverse community organizations calling themselves Optimist Clubs in the United States and Canada even before 1900. In 1916, six Clubs officially chartered that are still in existence today.

The six Clubs are recognized and honored for their 100 years of dedicated service to their communities and the children and are encouraged to continue to serve for many more years. Congratulations to the following Clubs on reaching their 100th anniversary:

- Mile-Hi Optimist Club of Denver, Colorado
- Optimist Club of Indianapolis, Indiana
- Optimist Club of Kansas City, Missouri
- Optimist Club of Louisville, Kentucky
- Optimist Club of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Optimist Club of St. Louis, Missouri

For more about the history of Optimist International, read "Of Dreams & Deeds" available online at www.ofdreamsanddeeds.org.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF LOUISVILLE

The Optimist Club of Louisville is led by Club President Tom Walthall, Secretary Michael Littell, and Treasurer Ashley Hitt and currently has 62 active Members. The Optimist Club of Louisville concentrates its efforts of serving the youth of their community through many projects with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana, The Cabbage Patch Settlement House, as well as honoring local high school students. The Club strives to develop Optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed. The Optimist Club of Louisville activities include: Youth Appreciation, Tri-Star Sports Skills Contest, Respect for Law, Essay Contest, Optimist Junior Golf Program, College Scholarship

Program, Christmas gift wrapping party, and Churchill Downs Day at the Races.

The Optimist Club of Louisville was founded in the same location of the first annual convention for Optimist International. The association of Clubs that is known today as Optimist International was formed on June 19, 1919, when representatives of 11 Clubs held a convention in Louisville, Kentucky, and adopted the name International Optimist Club. During the convention, William Henry Harrison, a descendent of the ninth president of the United States bearing the same name, was elected the first International President of Optimist international.

THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN LOUISVILLE TO CELEBRATE THE ORGANIZATION'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

ROSTER NUMBER

Including The Constitution and By-Laws



OUR NEW

PRESIDENT

BRANCH RICKEY

SAINT LOUIS OPTIMIST

VOL. 3 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 1928 NO. 45

Branch Rickey Elected President of Optimist Club of St. Louis for 1928

In keeping with the new plan adopted one year ago, our Club on Friday, April 6th, elected 8 new members of the Board of Governors from a list of 12 nominees. These 8 men, elected for a two year term, together with the 8 hold-over members, met the following Saturday night at the Missouri Athletic Club for the purpose of electing, from among their number, officers to serve the Club for the coming year.

As a result of the balloting, Branch Rickey was elected President, Jack H. Gosse, 1st Vice-President, Maylin J. Pickering, 2nd Vice-President, Edgar Walsh Secretary, H. William Borgmann Treasurer, and Larry McDaniel, Sergeant-at-Arms.

With the exception of Edgar Walsh, all of the officers were selected from among the newly elected Board members. This indicates that the honors are being passed around, which is as it should be.

The elevation of Branch Rickey to the presidency met with the whole-hearted approval from the membership. There is no more popular member of the Optimist Club of St. Louis than Branch. With his keen mind, magnetic personality and rare ability as a speaker and toastmaster, Branch will in himself prove a drawing card to the meetings. As an executive he is thoroughly capable of directing the administrative affairs of the Club in an effective and successful manner.

Jack Gosse and Maylin Pickering, both men of executive ability, are thoroughly qualified to occupy the presidential chair in the absence of the incumbent. Edgar Walsh is the same "old reliable." Bill Borgmann, as Treasurer, promises to double the surplus by the end of the year, and "Bossful" Larry will make 'em all behave.

The election was high class; the members are satisfied, which means first division in 1928.

St. Louis is famous for many things: the arch, the Mississippi River, baseball, and beer. As we approach our 100th birthday, the Optimist Club of St. Louis embodies many of those same characteristics.

The Club held its first official meeting on October 2, 1916, and met weekly thereafter. It was the fifth Optimist Club organized in the United States and preceded the Optimist International.

The Club began meeting on a weekly basis for many years. Membership included some of the most prominent male leaders of St. Louis. Like many Clubs, membership was restricted to one representative of each profession. Funds were raised, charities supported, and banquets held. The Club prospered.

One of our early Presidents was also a very famous American who connected the Optimist Club of St. Louis to baseball. That was Branch Rickey, first President of the St. Louis Browns, and then of course for many years President of the St. Louis Cardinals. Mr. Rickey is known for his success and innovation in baseball, including inventing the farm system for baseball. His Cardinal teams were often powerhouses who won the World Series on several occasions. He is most remembered for introducing Jackie Robinson to

OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

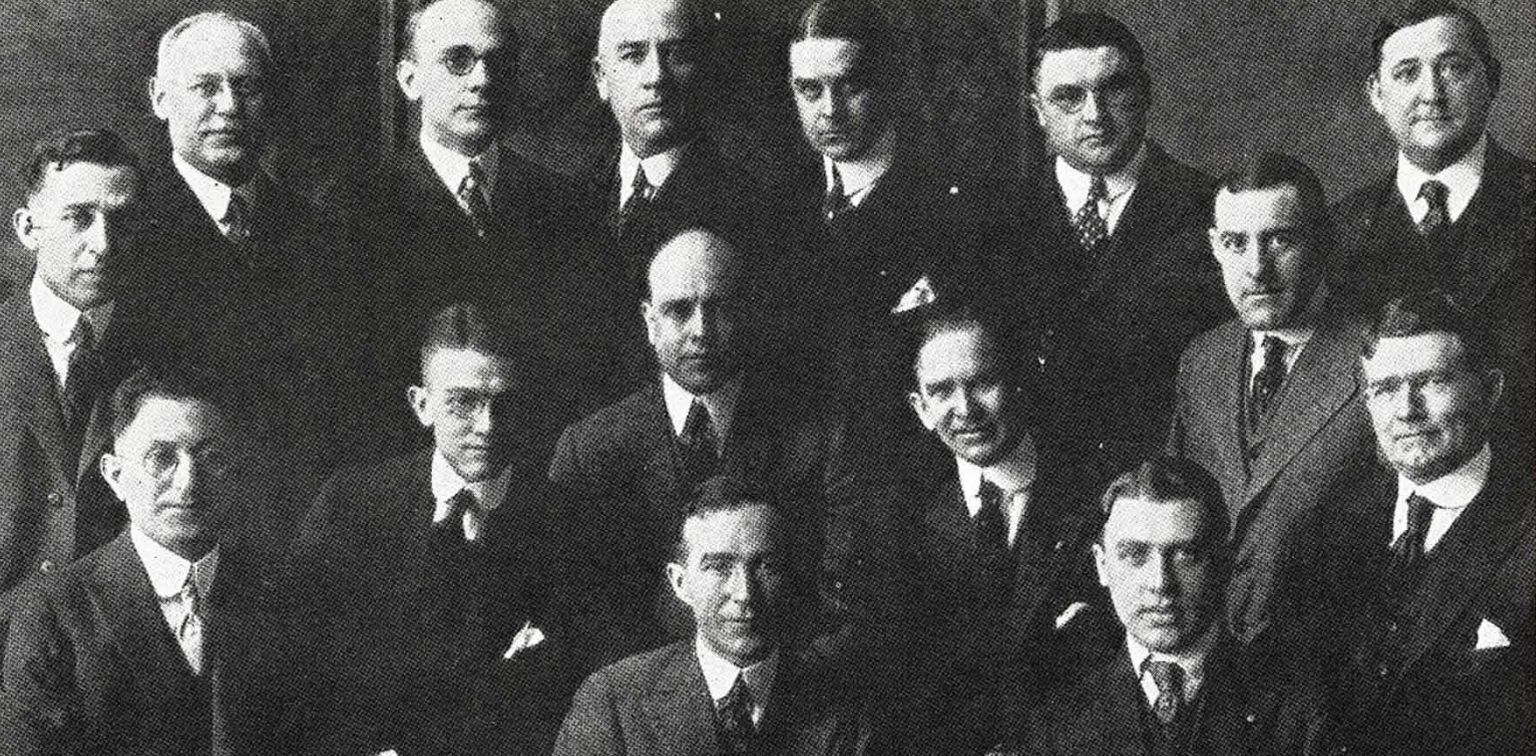
Submitted by: Paul Dribin, Optimist Club of St. Louis,
East Missouri District

Major League Baseball in 1948; thereby, breaking the color barrier. Mr. Rickey often brought Cardinal players to Optimist luncheons and also sold shares in the team to Optimist Members. He remained an active Member of the Club for years and often wrote letters of regret if he was out of town and could not attend meetings.

Our Club today attempts to embody the values instilled in the Club by our founders. We are fortunate to have an endowment which we use to fund important projects that benefit children and youth. One such project has been our support of St. Louis City Academy, a private school educating inner city children with outstanding results. Almost all of the graduates attend excellent high schools and eventually attend and graduate from college. Ezekiel Elliot, the star running back of Ohio State is an alumnus of the school.

The words of past President Roy V. Woodward, written on the 25th anniversary of the Optimist Club of St. Louis, are still important today: "On the occasion of Optimist International Week and the Silver Anniversary of the Optimist Club of St. Louis, it is my privilege and pleasure to extend to all Optimists our best wishes for continuing growth and success. . . It is my sincere belief that twenty five years hence, when we celebrate our Golden Anniversary, we will be living in a land of freedom, peace, and plenty and we can be happy in the thought that the spirit of Optimism helped in a great measure to bring this about."

I am proud to be an Optimist and I am proud of my fellow Members who are striving so valiantly to make this a better world. Our Club no longer has the number of Members as the old days, but our enthusiasm and impact on the community is just as high.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS

Submitted by: Rick France, Optimist Club of Indianapolis, Indiana South District

Fifteen men gathered over cigars after lunch in an Indianapolis hotel on a gloomy April day in 1916. They talked about a general need for a more cheerful attitude. The men decided to gather regularly to strive toward a brighter outlook in life. They invited others to join them for another meeting the following week and the momentum caught on as others joined them.

They formally started their organization on May 18, 1916 at a luncheon. One of the "newcomers" to the group was Walter J. Pray, who became a Member on June 9, 1916 and was a Member until his death on May 5, 1975. Walter would become the International President in 1935, one of four Club Members to lead Optimist International.

When Optimist International was formed in 1919, Dr. Harry G. Hill was selected as the organization's first secretary. Dr. Hill administered the affairs of the new organization for three years, first from one drawer of this desk at his home and then at his office in the Indiana College of Music and Fine Arts. The Club membership has produced four International Presidents, eleven District Governors, four District Secretary-Treasurers, and built 28 new Clubs.

The Optimist Club of Indianapolis will celebrate its 100th Anniversary at a banquet on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Among the activities of the evening will be a silent auction with proceeds benefitting the Center for Cancer at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. The celebration will be held at the Primo South Banquet and Convention Center in Indianapolis.

For more information about the Optimist Club of Indianapolis, visit the Club's website: www.optimistindiana.org/indydowntown



[May 20, 1955 (from left to right): President Harry Truman, Club President Jud Putch and Charter Member Jasper Bell]

Submitted by: Joanna Doyel, Optimist Club of Kansas City, West Missouri District

OPTIMIST CLUB OF KANSAS CITY

The Optimist Club of Kansas City was chartered on April 1, 1916. The first Club President was Jack Schoen, an insurance man here at the time. The first few meetings were held at Nance's Café, 12th and Main. Later in the year the luncheons were held at the Kupper Hotel. By 1918, the Club had grown to over 100 Members and meetings were held at the tea room of the Hotel Muehlebach. The Club at one point in its 100-year history had a membership of over 350 Members! The wives of the Members had their own group called the OPTI-MRS which was started in 1933.

One of the traditions of the group was to make an annual directory with each Member's photo and bio. Only one Member in a classification could belong to the Club and the directory was used as a networking tool. This tradition carried in to the early 90's. The Club now is reviving this tradition. The Club had a foundation which was called the Optimist Youth Association which funded all the kids' projects. OPTO was the name of the newsletter that came out each month for the Club.



Some of our well known Members were Mayor Harold Roe Bartle, who lured the Chiefs to Kansas City and of which Bartle Hall is named after him, and Dr. Charles Wheeler, who is a past Mayor and Senator from Kansas City. The Downtown Kansas City Airport is named after Dr. Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler is 89 years old and rejoined our Club as a Member at our 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Optimist Club of Kansas City is a small Club today, but we are growing for the kids of Kansas City! Some of our primary kid groups we help are Newhouse Women's and Children's Shelter, Northeast Branch Kansas City Public Library, Boys and Girls Club of Kansas City, Gillis Home, Jackson County Youth Court, many schools including Mattie Rhodes, Della Lamb, Crossroads Academy, Garfield Elementary and

Pathway Academy and a host of other organizations. We currently have some unique projects which were funded partially by Optimist International Foundation grants. The KC Kids: Life and Art is a project where kids complete art projects and it is showcased in an art gallery giving them the experience of a true artist with a gallery opening, reception and art awards. The Kids Etiquette Boot Camp teaches kids of all ages proper table etiquette and teaches high school students etiquette, work skills and dressing for success when working in the hospitality industry. Our newest and most exciting project is our Pooches and KC Kids Compassion Project which includes the kids reading to shelter animals, learning compassion and making homemade treats for the animals they read to. We take children on fun outings such as Fishing Derbies, Royals games, T-Bone games, theatre shows and more.

Our Members volunteer with many organizations and projects as well. We are excited to be doing fireworks for the community this year as our main fundraiser as our Club did fireworks for many years in the early days. Some of our other fundraisers include Texas Hold Em Tournaments, Raising Charitable Children Expo, Vendor Fairs, Gourmet Food sales, Progressive Dinner, Etiquette Dinner, Paint Parties, Optimist Day at the Royals and more!

On April 1, 2016 we kicked off our 100th Anniversary Celebration with a Champagne Reception and Business Expo at La Galeria. Our gala was on April 2 at the American Royal with special guests International President Dave Bruns and Master of Ceremonies International Vice President from Middle America Bob Floyd. We will continue to celebrate our 100th year with special events and a wrap up gala next April 2017.

The Optimist Club of Kansas City will continue to help the kids of Kansas City!



MILE-HI OPTIMIST CLUB OF DENVER

Submitted by: Kelsey Robb,
Mile-Hi Optimist Club of Denver,
Colorado-Wyoming District

Styles and trends may change, but our mission and passion remain the same.

Let us do a quick flashback to Denver in 1916. Colorado adopts prohibition in January. The women's suffrage movement was gaining momentum in Denver with Molly Brown, from Titanic fame, being a spokesperson on a local and national level. Buffalo Bill Cody is living in Denver. Future President Dwight Eisenhower marries Mamie Dowd in a local church. The nation is on the brink of entering World War I and the call for volunteerism is strong.

The Mile Hi Optimist Club was organized in September 1916 with Charter #6 from Optimist International under the name Optimist Club of Denver. The slogan at the time was "Friend of the Boy" and mentoring these young people was an important part of the mission. The Members helped keep the boys' minds active, along with their bodies, by having a program that fixed and gave away bicycles. This was just one example of our Club integrating into the community.

Our Club has a rich history of Members including Milton Morris (Optimist International President 1948-1949), Ralph E. Finney (Optimist International Vice President 1951-1953) and over 20 past District Governors. Mile Hi is considered the "Mother Club" of Colorado and Wyoming. Over its 100-year history, it birthed 28 Clubs and those Clubs, in turn, built even more Clubs.

In the community, Mile Hi was the first service Club recipient of the Colorado State Governor's Volunteer Award, and received honorary proclamations from both the Colorado Governor's office as well as the Denver Mayor's office. As an Honor Club many times over, our Club has a rich tradition of success.

A reflection of the history of the international organization, Mile Hi evolved with Optimist International. With such a strong tradition, our Club has many key highlights. On the leadership side, the Club created the President's Round Table in 1923. The original Club split into 5 area Clubs in 1939 and officially

changed its name to Mile Hi in 1954. The Club was the host of the 1964 Optimist International Convention. In 1990, our Club saw its first woman president.

Community involvement highlights include the establishment of the Milk Box Program in 1931, which changed to the Red Box Program after the end of the Great Depression. Originally designated to ensure children had access to milk at school, the program evolved to eventually create and equip the Red Shield Athletic Community Center in 1969 with a handball court that is still being used today, as well as to provide funds to finance repairs and upkeep. Mile Hi initiated the "Respect for Law" program for the District in 1966, cementing the close relationship of the Club with local law enforcement.

The last living Charter Member passed away in 1972, but left behind a legacy of continued dedication to helping the community. With the Optimist Creed at the center of everything we do, Mile Hi Optimists continue to dedicate time and resources to investing in the youth of today. The theme for the 100th year is "Be the One" with a focus on each individual's responsibility to step up and help the community. The theme carries with it a challenge – "Be the One" to show up at a community event. "Be the One" who decides to ensure a child has the needed resources to succeed. "Be the One" to provide hope and positive vision. "Be the One" who is enthusiastic and wears a smile. "Be the One" to carry on the legacy of the past 100 years into the next 100 years.

We would like to extend an invitation to all Members to help us celebrate our milestone with a dinner and program on September 17, 2016 at the Hilton Double Tree in Denver, Colorado. It is a beautiful time of the year with fall colors and majestic mountains. Arrangements have been made for discounted hotel rates and more information can be provided by contacting Gail Lindley at dbbc@denverbook.com or (303) 455-5521.

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/milehioptimists/ to follow our journey into the next 100 years!

OPTIMIST CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

Submitted by: Barb Brinkmann, Optimist Club of Milwaukee, Southern Wisconsin District

The Optimist Club in Milwaukee was one of the first to be formed in the country. A program of working with boys, helping them to prepare for the future, was needed during that time. Optimists believed that the boys wanted to succeed, wanted to be good citizens and that they would follow the lead of older people who were ready to help and set a good example.

Members accepted the challenge of showing the boys the way to success. The youth need the guiding hand of older people, the sympathetic attitude of those who have gone before. They wanted to safely launch them onto the sea of opportunity.

John Tyrrell, the first life Member of the Club, proved criminals guilty in the famous Loeb-Leopold case in Chicago where Bobby Franks was murdered in 1924. Later he was a star witness in the Lindbergh kidnaping case and helped to prove Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty. Fighting crime is one way of boosting good citizenship and it led to his deep interest in helping the younger generation to get a wholesome start in life.

Leo F. Nohl, a Member, was employed on the Evening Wisconsin, a Milwaukee newspaper of that day. Nohl served as President of the Optimist Club of Milwaukee and had the honor of serving as President of Optimist International.

Let us relate a bit of the history of the Junior Optimist movement in Milwaukee. Henry Scarborough, Sr. founded the Junior Optimists in Milwaukee. It gained recognition in 1924. In that year, the delegates to Optimist International voted to give official recognition to the movement, thus making the Junior Optimist movement the original program of Optimist International.

Bert Hall, also a Member of the Optimist Club of Milwaukee, stepped in to assume leadership in the Junior Optimists movement. In a short time, he was recognized by Optimist International with an appointment as Director of Boys Work of Optimist International. Later the title changed to "Chairman of the Boys' Work Council." Working with the Milwaukee Board of Education and the Department of Municipal Recreation, resulted in a cooperative sponsoring of more than thirty Junior Optimist Clubs with the Optimist Club of Milwaukee.

The Optimist Club of Milwaukee has had over 50 Junior Optimist Clubs that were directed by our own Member, Henry Wisniewski. These Clubs took place in the Milwaukee Public Schools after school. Then in 1979 when busing began in Milwaukee, the Clubs disbanded as they were no longer able to stay after school. The Optimist Club of Milwaukee started to slow down without the Junior Optimist Clubs.

In 2010, the Optimist Club of Milwaukee started to be rejuvenated. We started the first library at Kosciusko Community Center, along with starting a Bike Safety Program, and provide NBA Bucks game tickets through our Friend of Youth Foundation for behavior incentives for kids. We also engage in the following: National Night Out celebrations with the community, Halloween Party and Trick or Treat Safety, Breakfast with Santa and answering letters from Santa, Easter Egg-citement, family night gatherings, Respect for Law programs, provide children bus rides for field trips, and read to the children at the summer camp, etc. We are planning to have a pen pal group started between the summer camp children and the Racine Junior Optimist Club.

For more information about the Optimist Club of Milwaukee, visit www.optimistclubofmilwaukee.org.

THE BRAIN BOWL IS COMING

Submitted by: Curtis Merrill, Optimist Club of Denver-Monaco South, Colorado-Wyoming District

It's 5:00am on a Saturday morning and the sun has barely peeked its head up over the Rocky Mountains. I am getting ready to drive 50+ miles to the Brain Bowl event in Colorado. This is one of four events that the Colorado/Wyoming District has been putting on for over 30 years. Kids in the Northern, Southern and Central regions compete for the chance to move to the finals.

What is Brain Bowl you say? This is a competition consisting of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in a "jeopardy" style event. Schools form teams of six kids each from the respective grades. On game day, these teams compete in the morning for the right to move on to the elimination rounds in the afternoon that will then place them in line to move to the championship. There have been anywhere from 43 teams in the South competition to 100+ teams at the North and Central events. For the championship event, there will be 54 teams to compete for the right to say they are the best.

Let's not forget the parents because they are just as involved as the kids. Many parents sit and watch the competition in the rooms they are being held and grit their teeth as their kids attempt to get the right answers.

Now, just where do I come in? I am one of 150+ volunteers of the Colorado Optimists that put this event on. First and foremost are the readers who read the questions for the kids to answer. This is not the easiest job as they have to watch for who rings in and make sure that the answer is correct. We have timekeepers and scorekeepers. And then we have Brain Bowl Central that organizes and tabulates the results of the competition happening in some 30-40 rooms throughout the school that the event is being held. This event doesn't just happen overnight, even though it has been around for 30 years. Within months of last year's event coming to a close the organizers are reviewing comment sheets from participants to evaluate

how the event went and how it can be improved. The success of this event has been through the dedication of these organizers.

As an Optimist I am proud of what this event accomplishes for our District. It brings together many Clubs for the betterment of the kids in the competition, but also brings together many Optimists from all parts of the state to work together and share a common experience. When the day is done midafternoon many of the volunteers are exhausted and tired, but they still have a big smile on their face. As parents and students come by and say thank you for the event, it really means something to each volunteer. That's why we do it. To bring out the Best in Youth, Ourselves and our Communities.

APPALACHIAN THRU-HIKE 4 THE KIDS

Submitted by King Bourland, Optimist Club of Town North-Dallas, North Texas District

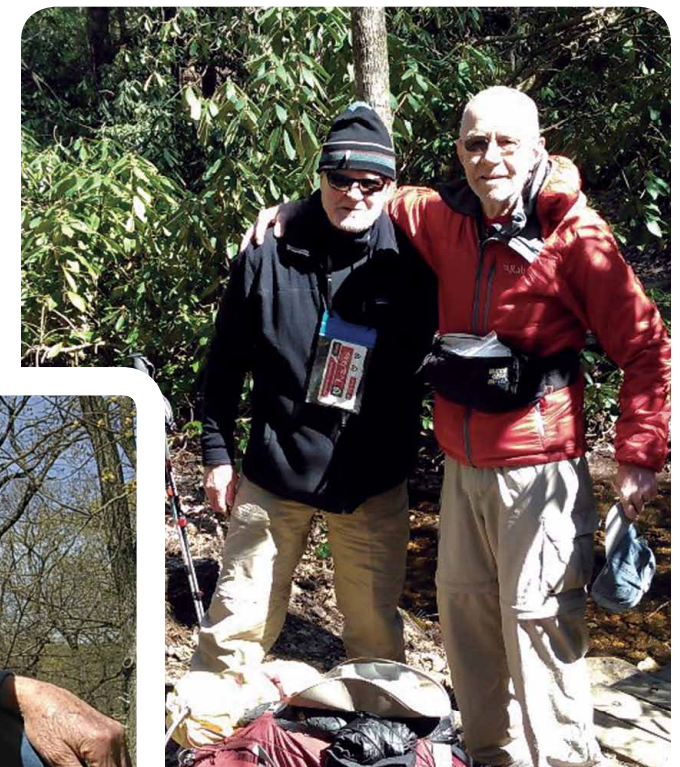
They decided a worthy cause would keep them motivated. The two chose to raise money for the Town North Optimist Foundation. Dollar and Norman are both Members of the Optimist Club of Town North-Dallas. 100% of the net contributions collected through a GoFundMe campaign will be used to support youth in their community. The Optimist Club of Town North-Dallas is a unique group of men and women in Dallas who, for over 62 years, have chosen to dedicate a portion of their time to serving youth in their community.

Dollar and Norman began their hike in March. Unfortunately, after only nine days on the Appalachian Trail, Dollar developed sepsis pneumonia, a potentially very serious condition. With the help of Trail Angels, they managed to get him to Blairsville, Georgia, where he was able to receive much needed medical attention. He was hospitalized for five days and is now recovering at his home.

Norman began hiking again with another friend May 15-23 with the same goal – to raise money for the Town North Optimist Foundation. Donations are still being accepted at the GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/Jayhike.

Jay Norman is 78 years of age, and a prostate cancer survivor. Over a year ago, his longtime friend Jim Dollar asked if Jay would hike the Appalachian Trail with him. He said, "sure," but not believing he was serious. Could two 78-year-old veterans and prostate cancer survivors possibly hike 2189 miles? Sure.

They planned to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail starting in mid-March. Not many their age have completed this trail.



[Jim Dollar (left) & Jay Norman (right)]



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The 2016 Forsyth County Oratorical Contest, a county-wide competition, began with more than 4,500 middle and high school students. The local contest is sponsored by the Sawnee-Cumming and Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Clubs. Each year the top two girls and top two boys move onto to compete at the Zone competition. Beyond the Zone competition is the area competition, then the state/District competition. Charlie Dougal of Pinecrest Academy, one of the boy finalists of the local competition, will represent the GATEway District in St. Louis, Missouri for the Optimist Oratorical World Championships.

The Forsyth County Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Sawnee-Cumming and Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Clubs, has been well-known for a number of years. The contest is one of the largest in the Optimist International organization. The Forsyth County Oratorical Contest has had nine state/District finalists. The competition is open to students from all Forsyth middle and high schools. A separate competition is held to give fifth graders an opportunity to write and gain public speaking experience. Other projects hosted by the Clubs are essay contests, CCDHH, and Expressing My Passions, a program for students with special needs to develop storyboards consisting of pictures and details about what they love most.



[Forsyth County Oratorical Contest Finalists with Tony Bell, GATEway Governor and Jan Norman, Forsyth County Oratorical Contest Chair]

Jan Norman, Forsyth County Oratorical Contest Chair, has been involved with the contest since 1993. Her husband was an Optimist Member and her daughter had previously competed in an Optimist Oratorical Contest. She wanted to become involved because she recognized the significance of the project. She continues to be involved because **“there is a great deal of self-satisfaction when you realize the difference you can make in a young person’s life.”**

The Forsyth County Oratorical Contest is widely successful due to being a respected contest within the surrounding schools. The contest is currently associated with 34 public schools and four private schools. Some schools have included the contest in their curriculum. When Norman first became involved, she visited schools and talked to principals about the contest’s benefits. She suggested each school assign a coordinator. With Norman’s help, the coordinator communicates to teachers within the school about the topic, dates/deadlines and other information pertaining to the contest. Norman suggests to each Optimist Club struggling with attracting participants to develop strong relationships with schools and teachers. Recognize and thank teachers for promoting the contest and encouraging students to participate.

Another important aspect of Oratorical Program that is sometimes overlooked is recruiting quality judges. Norman says, **“When you have judges with outstanding resumes, such as community activists, you become known for holding a good, fair competition.”** The Forsyth County Oratorical Contest has had judges from United Way, the Forsyth County Board of Educators, and local hospitals. Certain judges can lead to sponsorship or partnership opportunities. For example, the Forsyth County Oratorical Contest applied for a \$5,000 grant from United Way. The grant was quickly approved because employees of United Way were aware and had served as judges for the contest.



[Forsyth County Oratorical Contest Finalists: Charlie Dougal, Morgan Champion, Reagan Smith and Raymond Qin]

To any Club wanting to become involved in the Oratorical Program, Norman suggests starting small. **“Your contest doesn’t have to be huge; just have fun doing it and watch it grow,”** Norman says. She believes it does become easier each year as the Club adapts to what it can manage. Start with a school or two and develop relationships. Draft letters to principals, coordinators, judges, and winners to use year after year.

“If at first you don’t succeed, try again” is the advice Norman would give to each child competing in an Optimist Oratorical Contest. Norman recalls one of the Forsyth County Oratorical Contest girl finalists won the state/District contest in 2014 - it was her seventh time competing in the local contest. Norman urges students to treat the contest as a learning experience and to remember it’s not all about winning. She urges students to be prepared, but remember to have fun and stay relaxed.

For more information about the Forsyth County Oratorical Contest, visit the Clubs’ websites: www.fcoptimists.org and www.sawneecummingoptimist.org.

The Need to EVOLVE

Submitted by: James Patrick Schmidt - Young Members Advisory Committee Chair, Illinois District

Many of our Clubs are not built to accommodate the busy and hectic lifestyles that are the reality of today's business, social, and cultural climate. A Club willing to reconsider the status quo can address these challenges, but it's important to realize that some of our practices and traditions make it difficult for new Members, especially young Members, to join our Clubs—even when they have a strong desire to serve their community.



The Young Members Advisory Committee has delivered a report to the International Board of Directors identifying the most significant issues that discourage younger Members from joining. Some of the key findings that our Clubs can act on Right Here, Right Now are:

Update Club Signage and Promotional Materials

The branding used by most Optimist Clubs looks old, which can cause the organization to seem old fashioned and unappealing to new Members, as well the youth we serve and their parents. Clubs should consider creating new signage and promotional materials with updated logos and modern designs. This costs money, but professional looking signage and promotional materials help to establish trust and credibility.

Avoid Morning Meetings

The younger Members will almost never show up to an early morning meeting. Evening meetings work best, and having a meeting without dinner in favor of a “happy hour” or “appetizers” option fits the lifestyle of young professionals, especially.

Update the Meeting Format, and Rely on Committees for Action

Meetings with a traditional speaker and/or conducting of standard business are not attractive to most people, especially young Members. It is best to provide a “hook” of some kind that is based on the social aspect of the Club. Major announcements and the occasional speaker of interest should be included, but business should not infringe upon the meeting.

That doesn't mean business won't get done at meetings, as Members will have access to project chairs and Club Board Members, and they should be encouraged to discuss Club issues when they are together. But taking it out of the group allows for more collaboration to happen and helps streamline Club business.

Get New Members Involved Early, and Make Sure It's Meaningful Work

Offering new young Members opportunities to lead as soon as possible is important. Providing support for new ideas and giving these Members a way to contribute in a meaningful way helps to build their enjoyment and commitment to the organization. Just showing up to be an extra body at events won't have the same effect if a young Member wants to be more involved.

We must also be sure that it is a responsibility they are eager and willing to take on—and that they will have the support needed to succeed. Pushing new Members into roles they aren't necessarily interested in contributes to turnover, and this kind of “pouncing on new blood” must be avoided at all levels of Optimist International.

Increase Size of Target Communities

By expanding the coverage area of our Clubs, we increase the number of people a Club can serve and potentially recruit. There are Clubs focused on young Members who have already adopted this strategy, as well as traditional Clubs who have long served a large geographic border. We recognize this can cause some scheduling difficulties such as moving meeting locations, but the benefit is a larger pool for membership – and youth participation.

Do Away with Dues

Operating a “sweat equity” or other program to reduce dues in exchange for participation and Club activity is a great way to support involvement, as long as these programs are also being leveraged to ensure funds are generated that can cover the dues to Optimist International and the District.

If you'd like to read the full report, you can download it here: tinyurl.com/youngOI

And this report is just the beginning. We will be presenting how to use our recommendations at a workshop during the International Convention, as well as hosting a booth in the House of Optimism. We want to answer your questions and help support Clubs who want to recruit young Members! As we're gearing up for convention and beyond, we'll be using a hashtag to mark everything we're working on: [#youngOI](https://twitter.com/youngOI).

If we all work together, we can make our Optimist Clubs a great place for young Members—Right Here, Right Now.

If you'd like to learn more, or to get help from the committee, please feel free to reach out to any of our Members:

James Patrick Schmidt (Chair), jamespatrickschmidt@gmail.com

A.J. Cifuentes, ajcifuentes27@gmail.com

Julie d'Auteuil, juliedauteuil@hotmail.com

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STAY CONNECTED WITH THE 2016 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
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PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO!

Check out the convention page of the Optimist International website for all related information and updates. Visit optimist.org/convention for all of the following and much more:

- Hotel information
- Online registration
- Tentative schedule
- Workshop listing with descriptions
- Exhibitors
- About Québec City

FOLLOW THE FUN ON FACEBOOK

Make sure to visit the Optimist Facebook page for convention news and updates. You will find fun facts about events and the host city, as well as what other Members are saying about convention. The photo gallery will be updated often with pictures of workshops, business sessions, attendees and more.

Please take a moment to “like” the page at www.facebook.com/optimist.international. Share your thoughts about the upcoming convention and respond to posts made by other Optimists. Be part of the conversation before, during and after the convention!

TWEET ABOUT IT!

Optimist International wants all the Members to be part of the 98th annual International Convention this year. While every Optimist may not be able to travel to Québec City, they can still stay up to date on the events taking place!

Follow [@Optimistorg](https://twitter.com/Optimistorg) on Twitter. If you do not have a Twitter account, it's easy and free to sign up at twitter.com.

By following the convention hashtag, **#OI2016**, you can get an inside view on the convention. Clicking on a hashtagged word in any message will show you all other tweets on that category.

Members attending the convention will get updates and information on training sessions, speakers, and events. Find out about some of the great attractions Québec City has to offer and the best places to have dinner or do some shopping. Learn more about the bylaws amendments or resolutions being voted on this year.

Use the hashtag **#OI2016** to join the conversation and follow what other Optimists are saying. It's the next best thing to being there!

Live from Québec City

All the action at the 2016 International Convention will be streamed live. The Board of Directors meeting, the Opening Ceremonies, and the Business Sessions will be streaming live on the Optimist channel at optimist.org/stream.

Here are approximate times for each event. If you are unable to attend, tune in to the live streams.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Wednesday, June 29
 8:00AM-1:00PM

OPENING CEREMONIES:

Thursday, June 30
 7:00-9:00PM

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION:

Friday, July 1
 9:00-11:30AM

SECOND/CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION:

Saturday, July 2
 1:00-3:30PM

If you have any questions, please send them to convention@optimist.org or call (800) 500-8130.



OPENING CEREMONIES

Theme: Rediscover Optimism
 Thursday, June 30 at 7:00-9:00PM
 Entertainment - Studios Unis Self-Defense

Studios Unis is the largest group of martial arts franchises recognized in Québec. The federation has more than 20 permanent schools and many satellite schools affiliated with various Québec school boards. Their mission is to offer the highest standards of quality in martial arts classes, create a stimulating learning environment for the entire family, and allow students to develop their athletic abilities at their own pace. Martial arts offer considerable benefits for one's self-confidence, stress management and concentration.

PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET

Theme: Rediscover Optimism
 Saturday, July 2
 Presidential Reception 5:30-6:30 PM
 Presidential Banquet 6:45-8:45 PM
 Presidential Ball 8:45-11 PM
 Entertainment: DJ Marino & Julie Massicotte

Entertainment by Optimist International's very own Immediate Past South Carolina District Governor, Marino Garbin, along with one of the greatest singers in Québec, Julie Massicotte!



Marino, a lifelong musician, began his DJ career by playing records between bands sets before becoming a full time DJ when having DJ's at weddings and parties became popular. He will provide music from his console for you at the International Convention during the President's Banquet and Ball while you walk into the room, during dinner and between Julie's performances through the night. With over 20 years of experience, Marino is one of the leaders in the DJ industry.



A finalist on The Voice Québec in 2013, Julie has two records available and has performed with many artists for more than 20 years. She has appeared on many stages in Japan, France, and major cities including New-York, San Francisco, Boston, and Montréal. She will sing at the International Convention during the President's Banquet and Ball with her guitar player and her only request is to have a great evening and enjoy the music!

OPTIMIST BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN JUNIOR GOLFERS

Thousands of junior golfers have competed in more than 60 District qualifying tournaments in the past couple of months. All the junior golfers are looking for a chance to compete at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Once they get to the championship event, 700 junior golfers will face a tough international field on the course. Junior golfers have free time to take their mind off their game and enjoy their new friends. The Champion Course presents a challenge of a lifetime for the boys, which is home of the PGA Tour Honda Classic.

WE OFFER THREE PHASES

Phase 1: Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12

Phase 2: Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14

Phase 3: Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

Phase 1 and 2 play three rounds of competitive play. The Boys 14-15 will be flighted after two rounds. The top 70 players plus ties advance to the final round on the Champion Course. All others will play the Palmer Course. Awards are given in both flights. Phase 3 plays three rounds of golf before a cut. Those making the cut will compete in a final round. Those not making the cut play a fun round on the last day.

Off the Course, there is plenty to keep the golfers occupied. The power hitters of the groups face off in Palmer Golf Long-Drive Competition. Also planned is a "Glow Ball" putting event. After a hot and humid day of golf, many of the junior golfers cool off each evening in the pool. For the older groups, we host an educational seminar for the parents and players. This year Mac Thayer, founder of JuniorGolf Scoreboard, will present "How to Become Visible and How to Communicate to a Coach."

Dozens and dozens of dedicated Optimist volunteers pay their way to the Optimist Championships each year to make sure the junior golfers and their families have an experience of a lifetime. Without the Optimist Junior Golf District Chairs and the many Optimist volunteers working the qualifiers and the Championships, we wouldn't exist. To volunteer contact Optimist Junior Golf staff at (314) 881-1307 or email golf@optimist.org.

Following are just a few of our successes through the years currently playing on the PGA and LPGA Tour.

- 1996** Jonathan Byrd (South Carolina)
- 2000** Brittney Lincicome (Colorado)
- 2001** Jeff Overton (Indiana)
- 2004** Jason Day – Center (Australia)
- 2006** Lexi Thompson (Florida)
- 2006** Mark Hubbard (Colorado)
- 2008** Emiliano Grillo (Argentina)
- 2011** Brooke Henderson (Canada)



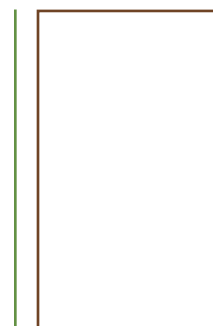
[Jason Day]



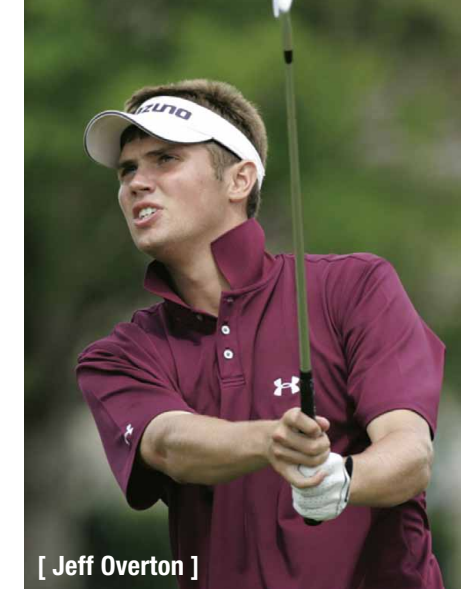
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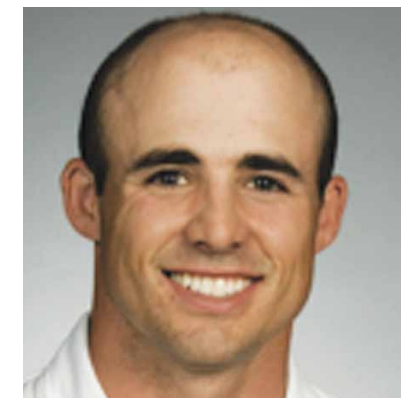
[Mark Hubbard]



[Lexi Thompson]



[Jeff Overton]



[Jonathon Byrd]



[Emiliano Grillo]



[Brooke Henderson]

Reno JOOI CLUBS

Submitted by Dee Frewert, JOOI Chairman of Optimist Club of Reno, Pacific Central District



Raising High Optimism Through ROBOTICS

In Northern Nevada, several FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology) Robotics teams found it a perfect fit in becoming Junior Optimist Octagon Clubs. Already successful in their seasonal involvement as FIRST LEGO League, FIRST Robotics Competition and FIRST Tech Challenge teams, they sought more ways to enrich their experience and do more for their community. The nucleus of the Sierra Youth Club is a LEGO robotics team called M Cubed. FYRE Robotics was first formed as a FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) community based team. The Enterprisers formed a JOOI Club because they believe in the creed. It's made a difference in how they work as a team and spread positivity wherever they go. For all three Clubs, forming JOOI Clubs seemed like the best way to share skills and abilities.

The JOOI Clubs coordinate activities aimed at teaching the community on how important STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education is by using robotics. From their actions, you wouldn't be able to tell that the Sierra Youth JOOI Club is still getting its footing. They have put on a robotics camp at a local community college, showcased robotics at the Carson City Airport Open House, acted as trainers at a one-day seminar for new LEGO robotics teams, and volunteered to help setup the fields at a FIRST Tech Challenge competition. One of their objectives is to help seniors embrace technology to stay in contact with their families. The Enterprisers also hold camps, demonstrations, and have hosted two astronomy camps. They use positive attitudes to encourage kids and parents to learn to work together. FYRE have showcased their robot and refereed in FIRST tournaments.

The area JOOI Clubs participated in their first official JOOI program activity: the Souper Bowl of Caring. With other JOOI Clubs, they conducted a food drive at one of the championship events. A learning experience for all of them, they hope to start earlier in their planning and coordinate activities that have a bigger impact for next year. The sponsoring Optimist Club in Reno also hosted a rock climbing event that brought the JOOI Clubs together.

While the collective goal is to make the community better, the JOOI Clubs realize that this starts with each of Member individually. In part, this thinking helped the Sierra Youth Club craft their motto: "Improving our community, improving ourselves." Scot Duncan (Mentor) noted "We have to keep improving ourselves, which includes our attitude and maintaining a positive outlook". The Optimist Creed provides a constant reminder that good deeds are based on Optimism — about ourselves, about our community and about our ability to make a difference.

The JOOI Clubs offer several tips:

- When things are at their worst and everyone is sad or disappointed, take a breath, step away,

calm down and then say something nice or positive about what has happened.

- Assume the positive about your team members, that they are trying to do their best for the team.

- You may not agree with what they are doing, but assume they have good intentions always. People are 99% of the time good people.

- At the end of your meetings or events, come together and everyone share the fun experiences you had.

The Club Members look forward to an optimistic future. Price Poston, JOOI Club Member, said, "I want to learn more about what I am interested in and have a fun time doing it. I want to see others do the same. I also want people to slow down and appreciate what they already have." Daniel Willis, another Club Member, takes a broader perspective on Optimism: "I foresee a prosperous, peaceful, wealthy, strong country." Emily Willis, Club Vice President, offers a more personal reflection on Optimism by stating, "I will work hard to finish high school, in order to go to the college of my choice, and research something that has to do with stars." Leave it to Nanami Duncan, Club Secretary, to provide positivity and practicality in viewing Optimism, "I believe our lives as human beings are heading in a good direction. It may not seem like it with all of the chaos occurring around the world, but our lives are good so long as the chaos is kept in check. To keep the evils in check, we will need to guide the appropriate generation: the kids. The kids will make the biggest impact on the future of mankind". For Wyatt Kremer, Club Treasurer, "Life is a minefield. If one endures and eventually surmounts its adversities, they will feel success. Those who struggle and become disoriented in its twisted arrays will seep downward, but upon unveiling their aspiring optimistic spirit, they will rise and establish the foundation of our bright future. Life is an opportunity."

When asked to share a little advice to those considering forming a JOOI Club, The Enterprisers can't be more encouraging. The Club Members highlight how is very straight forward because you are spreading something you believe in. Do not worry about the small stuff - always look to do your best and help others do the same. The Sierra Youth JOOI Club emphasize how fantastic being part of the Club is for opening opportunities for young people. Like many service oriented clubs, it provides you with a way to get involved in your community. However, unlike many such clubs, the JOOI program allows you nearly infinite flexibility in deciding how to go about it. Each Club can decide the best way to make a contribution based on its interests, as well as leveraging the unique set of skills available among the Club Members. What better way to organize a Club than providing them the brightest platform, the backing of a solid Optimist Club, and the freedom to choose how to spread Optimism!

JOOI AWARDS

Each year \$6000 worth of scholarships are awarded to JOOI Members. These scholarships come from the JOOI Clubs dues. The awards inspire JOOI Members to share what their Clubs and Districts do best. Some awards are simple and easy, while others are more challenging and take some determination to accomplish. Below is background information for each JOOI award:

MEMBER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD - College Scholarship worth \$2,000

Each year the Member Excellence Award will be presented to one JOOI Member who shows dedication in the fields of JOOI Club involvement and community service. This award represents the true philanthropic spirit of JOOI and should be considered a great honor. All nominations and support materials must be received at the International Office no later than May 30. The screening process will begin with the Staff Review Committee at Optimist International. The top five applicants will be forwarded to the JOOI Board of Directors who will select the winner of the scholarship. The winner will be announced at the JOOI Convention.

Requirements:

1. JOOI membership for at least one year at the time of application
2. Completion of the official Member Excellence Scholarship Application Form and all other required documentation.
3. Must have a letter of support from a JOOI Advisor or JOOI Club President with signatures from both parties. (In addition to the letter of support from the JOOI Advisor, the applicant is encouraged to submit other letters of support from school and community leaders).
4. Must have served at least one year on District or International level.



RUBY BLAIR JOOI MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD - College Scholarship worth \$2,000

Each year, this international award recognizes one outstanding Member of the JOOI organization. The Ruby Blair Award is named for a former staff Member of Optimist International who spent a huge amount of time and effort to help organize the international administration of JOOI. Ruby Blair's efforts gave JOOI Club Members their own newsletter, awards, training, materials and convention. This award is considered a great honor. All nominations and support materials must be received at the International Office no later than May 30. The International JOOI Board of Directors will judge all entries. Their decision is final. The winner will be honored at the JOOI Convention.

Requirements:

1. All JOOI Members who have not held a District title are eligible for nominations. Do not nominate current or past District or International JOOI officers.
2. Candidates must have an established membership in a JOOI Club with a charter date no later than February 1. (NOTE: Transferring your membership from one Club level to another is acceptable.)
3. All candidate entries must include a signed letter of recommendation from either their JOOI Club Adviser, JOOI Club Chair or Sponsor Club President.

OUTSTANDING JOOI GOVERNOR/GOVERNOR OF EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

New Club Building Scholarship - College Scholarship worth \$1,000

As JOOI Governor, you need to encourage your Clubs to be active in chartering new JOOI Clubs. The JOOI Governor whose District charters the highest number of new JOOI Clubs earns a \$1,000 scholarship (minimum of 3 new Clubs required).

Club Services Award Scholarship - College Scholarship worth \$1,000

The JOOI Governor with a minimum of 50 percent of Clubs submitting elections reports, rosters and submitting a Club Project Form detailing the Clubs' participation on the year's designated Priority Project will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Governor of Excellence

Should one JOOI Governor excel in both categories, he/she earns the distinction of "Governor of Excellence" as well as the scholarship total of \$2,000.

FOUNDATION HELPS FUND 20 NEW PROJECTS

Optimist International Foundation and the Club Grant Committee are pleased to announce the 2016 Club Grant Program winners! The Foundation gives out matching grants to 20 Optimist Clubs annually to help support a new charitable project. The following Clubs will be awarded a \$500 matching grant at the International Convention in Québec City. Congratulations to our 2016 winners:

SUMMER MATH ACHIEVERS Hill Country Optimist Club, Texas

BECOMING AN AUTHOR - FINDING OUR VOICE Optimist Club of St. Paul, Minnesota

WEEKEND SNACK SACKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL Optimist Club of McFarland, Wisconsin

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VEGETABLE GARDEN Dale Optimist Club, Indiana

PARHAM ROAD IN SPORTS MINISTRY Optimist Club of Hanover, Virginia

HOMELESS YOUTH SUPPORT AND CARE KITS Optimist Club of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

MODEL RAILROAD TRAINING PROJECT Optimist Club of Omaha, Nebraska

SENSORY MOVIE DAY Noon Optimist Club of Wapakoneta, Ohio

SHARING THE FINE ARTS Optimist Club of Des Moines, Iowa

HOMELESS HYGIENE KITS FOR STUDENTS Optimist Club of Grand Prairie, Texas

OPTIMIST PARK YEAR 30 RENOVATION Optimist Club of Sheboygan Inc., Wisconsin

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR LOCAL PARKS Optimist Club of Kearney, Nebraska

"MOMMY AND ME" AT THE YWCA Optimist Club of Greater Rochester, New York

POOCHES AND KIDS COMPASSION PROJECT Optimist Club of Kansas City, Missouri

MCAT HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB Marana-Foothills Optimist Club, Arizona

MINI MINER Missouri University of Science and Technology Optimist Club, Missouri

LINE DANCING WITH THE STARS Optimist Club of Greater Richmond, Virginia

UNO HIT STUDENTS PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE Chamorro Optimist Club San Diego, California

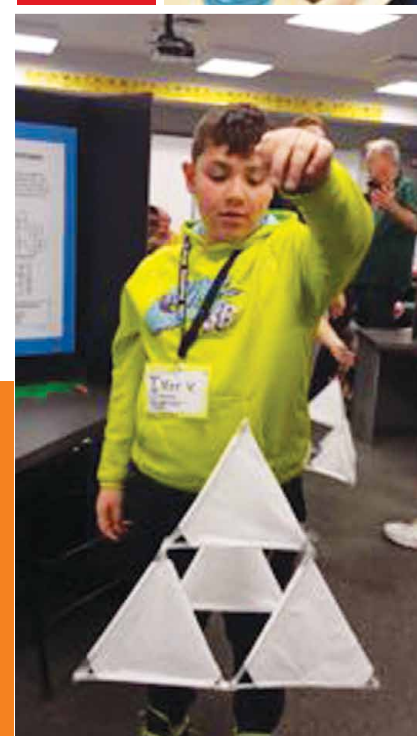
BLAIR OPTIMISTIC TICKET Optimist Club of Blair, Nebraska

END OF TREATMENT BELL FOR MAYNARD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Optimist Club of Wilson-Golden Circle, North Carolina

The Club Grant Program is a annual program designed to assist Clubs in funding new projects. For more information please visit www.oifoundation.org/programs/club-grant-program or call the Foundation office at (800)500-8130.

Optimist International Foundation will have a kiosk in the House of Optimism during the 2016 International Convention in Québec City. Come visit the kiosk and meet the Members of the OIF Board, Committee members and staff. While visiting the Kiosk, be sure to purchase the 2016 Foundation convention pin.

FOUNDATION KIOSK



Optimists SCIENCE ADVENTURES 4 Schools Program

Submitted by David Komar, Sacramento Breakfast Optimist Club, Pacific Central District

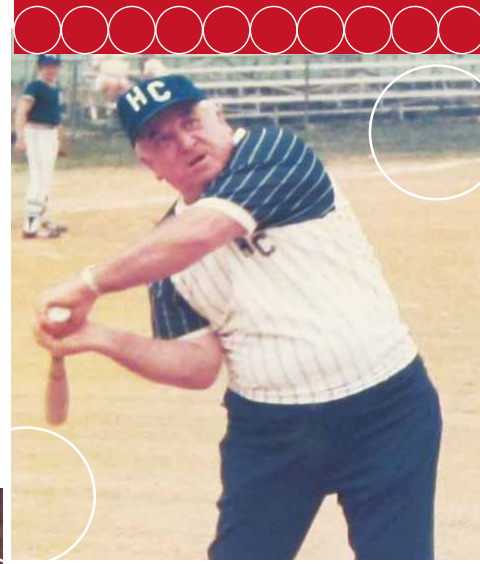
The Sacramento Breakfast Optimist Club received an Optimist International Foundation Matching Grant to create an in-school and an after-school science program for elementary age, at-risk and under-served children. With the help of Sacramento's well-known science author and educator, Ron Kremer, twenty-two Science Learning Centers were developed for the Optimists to share with schools. The innovative program fosters curiosity about science and nature through inquiry and discovery. It also provides a hands-on alternative to the traditional pencil, paper, and book approach to teaching science.

Some of the centers include: students constructing a tin foil boat to test its buoyancy by loading pennies, exploring the transfer of energy with Newton's Cradle, and observing brine shrimp and Tubifex worms. Children were able to solve a pentomino mathematics puzzle, examine unusual bones of a camel and a whale, build a tetrahedral kite, and identify rocks to find their origin.

Children benefit from these learning centers not only by working independently, but also by working cooperatively with other students, and talking with their peers about the variety of ways a problem can be solved. Child-initiated learning activities help children develop their social responsibility and interpersonal skills, which fosters diversity, and becoming more intellectually and socially competent.

The Optimists' Science Program plans to continue its successful program and will actively seek funding opportunities for next year through other grants and private corporate donations.

COACH



Ed Wilson was a baseball legend. He coached Little League Baseball for over twenty-five years. His team, Hanover Center, won over fifteen league championships, ten county championships, and at one time enjoyed a winning streak of fifty games which set a world record for the most consecutive victories by a baseball team at any level. He also guided two All-Star teams to North Carolina State titles.

He was my coach for three years of my youth and a few years later as a young man I was an assistant coach on his staff. Coach's teams set records that will never be approached and yet that pales in comparison to why this man was so loved by so many of his 'boys.' He impacted lives and none more so than mine.

A perplexed rival coach once said to him. "I don't understand why your teams are better than mine. I have players just as good as yours and I know as much about coaching baseball as you do."

Coach's response summed up a lot about his philosophy as a coach. "That's because you are coaching baseball and I am coaching boys."

The morning after receiving the news that Coach passed away at the age of ninety-eight, I found myself outside the gate to the Little League field. My thoughts drifted to a time when I stood in the same exact spot when he would alter the course of my life forever.

It was an early spring day forty years previous. I was nineteen. That morning I noticed in the local newspaper the Little League tryouts information. Each team was listed with the boys that were to report to the team that selected them. I filed away in my mind the four p.m. time that the boys were to report to Coach and went about my day.

Sometime after four I stood outside the gate to the baseball diamond. I had no plan. I had told no one I was going, but I was there none the less.

Coach was businesslike as ever as he conducted practice. Still, he walked over a couple of times to inquire about how I was doing. I was not in school or employed and far worse I had no positive direction in my life. I had gotten myself into trouble the year before and he knew about this because he came to visit me when he heard the news.

It was nearing six p.m. and tryouts were about to conclude. He walked over one last time.

"You need any help, Coach?" I asked sheepishly.

Coach had a gruff, no nonsense demeanor. He looked at me and said, "You want to help me? Be at the school tomorrow at four." He turned abruptly and walked away.

I was at the school the next day before four o'clock as I knew he would be. He already had a full coaching staff. I have come to realize that he did not need my help as much as he knew that I might be in need of his.

In time, I would look back to that one moment as being the crossroad of my life. I discovered a love for the kids and for coaching. I began to realize the chance he had taken on me and I did not want to disappoint him.

I spent the next four springs and summers coaching with him before taking my own path. I taught basketball to the same age boys for the next twenty years. The lessons I learned from my mentor were with me always. They remain so because Coach taught all of us a lot more than baseball. He taught us life.

His son, Bob, asked me to speak at Coach's funeral. It was one of the greatest honors of my life. I shared that day as I have many times that for some of us there is that one person who God places in our life that makes all the difference. Ed Wilson was that man for me. I shudder to think where I might be if not for a chance a ball coach took on a lost young man on a late spring afternoon.

Winter Park Optimist was formed in 1954 at Hugh MacRae Park, located in Wilmington, North Carolina. Coach and his brother Glenn 'Doc' Wilson, who also was a successful Little League baseball coach, were instrumental in the early days and for years to come in the shaping and guiding of Winter Park Optimist Little League. There are two press boxes that were named in their honor many years ago. On April 6, 2013 there was a day held in their honor on the very field they coached on long ago.

Winter Park Optimist is still going strong to this day over sixty years later. The baseball fields are still located in Hugh MacRae Park but there are now four baseball fields, which is twice the number when I was with Coach. They also have three fields nearby at John T Hoggard High School for girls' fast pitch softball.

Written by Billy Beasley. Author of *The River Hideaway*. You can contact him at billybeasleyauthor@gmail.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AuthorBillyBeasley/>

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Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

614	Bernard Labrecque	617	Andy Harris
616	David Kirkman	618	In Memory of Nicole Norman

Top Ten as of February 29, 2016

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	William Lundquist	\$24.83
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$9.05
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$7.53
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$7.51
Alabama-Mississippi	John Varnado	\$6.91
South Texas	Irvin Williams	\$5.73
Capital-Virginia	Barbara Grizzard	\$5.18
New Mexico-West Texas	Susan Sears	\$5.16
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$4.92
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$4.30

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Arizona	William Lundquist	\$19,417.12
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$14,640.00
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$13,885.00
Michigan	Barry Burnham	\$13,627.07
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$10,692.70
South Texas	Irvin Williams	\$9,583.49
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$7,817.81
Alabama-Mississippi	John Varnado	\$7,620.60
Southern Wisconsin	Maureen Crombie	\$6,565.40
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jeri Gorman	\$5,931.20

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Rod McKendrick	\$15.45
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Wesley Shewchuk	\$9.84
Central Ontario	Jim & Susan Lynge	\$9.00

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Central Ontario	Jim Lynge & Susan Lynge	\$13,521.03
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Rod McKendrick	\$12,995.74
Québec Center	Manon Daigneault	\$12,029.00



Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from January 1, 2016 – February 29, 2016 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

INDIANA NORTH
Optimist Club of Fort Wayne-Southside, IN
INDIANA SOUTH
Optimist Club of Indianapolis-500 West, IN

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

ARIZONA
James M. Pekny
COLORADO-WYOMING
Optimist Club of Boulder-Central, CO

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

KANSAS
Lawrence F. Drbal
QUEBEC WEST
Denis Poitras

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

EAST MISSOURI
Carl & Sallie Westenbarger
EASTERN ONTARIO
Ann Richer-Doyle
IOWA
David & Patty Mason
NEBRASKA
Optimist Club of Blair, NE
NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Optimist Club of West Jefferson-Central Ashe, NC
QUEBEC WEST
Club Optimiste de Buckingham, QC

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

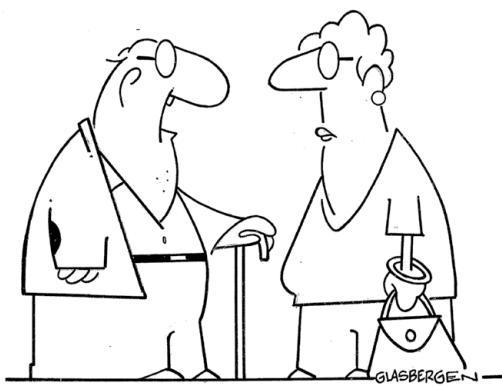
EAST MISSOURI
Larry W. Ream
INDIANA SOUTH
Herman & Yolanda Greenwood
QUEBEC SOUTH
Jacques Gauthier
Marcel Lavoie
QUEBEC WEST
Lucie Fortin



For more information about
the Foundation, see page 26.



"Yes, I have some management experience. When I was 10, I had a lemonade stand. I had 50 lemons working for me."



"We can afford to get married soon. I'm almost half-way done with my student loan payments!"

A fellow was invited to an old friend's house for dinner. The host preceded every request to his wife by calling her "sweetheart," "honey," "darling," "my love," etc. The guest was quite impressed since they had been married almost 70 years.

While the wife was in the kitchen, the guest remarked how nice it was that he still called her those pet names after so many years. "To tell you the truth," the friend replied, "I forgot her name about ten years ago."

A young businessman had just started his own firm. He had rented a beautiful office and had it fully furnished.

One day he saw a man enter the outer office.

Wishing to appear important, the businessman picked up his phone and started to pretend he had a big deal with a client. He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments.

Finally, he hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?"

The man replied, "Yeah, I've come to activate your phone lines."

While visiting an elementary school, a police officer was approached by a student.

She asked, "Are you a police officer?"

"Yes," the police officer replied.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?"

"Yes that's right."

"Well, then," she said while extending her foot, "Would you please tie my shoe?"

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

OLD TIMERS BREAKFAST ENTERTAINMENT
MAGICIANS FROM THE QUEBEC CITY MAGIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY,
JULY 2
7-8:30 AM

Magicians from the Québec City Magic Festival know how to amuse and amaze a crowd with their extraordinary talents. During the Old Timers Breakfast they will display their sleight of hand magic tricks with playing cards, coins and a few other small objects. One magician, well-known in the Québec area and a Member of the Charlesbourg Optimist Club, is a mentalist with the ability to manipulate the minds of those he meets. Come join the fun!



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