



## Dear fellow Junior Optimists!

My name is Fatima Zaidi, and I'm very excited to be your Junior Optimist International President for the 2022/23 year! I'm a Senior at White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. I first joined my local JOI Club in 2018 when I was in middle school, and since then I have served as a leader on the Municipal, District, and International levels. I have experience being a Club President, Vice President, District Lieutenant Governor, and International Board Director prior to my Presidency this year.

As an ethnic and gender minority, I've faced many obstacles throughout my lifetime. Facing these challenges allowed me to become the person I am today, but all the same made it harder to find opportunities for myself in order to succeed. Due to these experiences, I strive to help others facing similar hardships. Hence, my theme for this year is "Breaking Barriers Through Optimism."

With our Members located worldwide, we have thousands of Members each with their own set of unique skills and traits. Instead of isolating one another because of these differences, we should be using our diversity to uplift and support others to power our service and projects and spread Optimism throughout our individual communities. My mission is to allow JOI Members worldwide to unite, to accept their differences and use it to their advantage, and to share perspectives as individuals. By tackling important social issues that face our youth today, such as equity and environmentalism, we can collectively make a bigger impact on the world, raise awareness amongst others, and create an accepting society for generations to come.

So this year let's join together as a community; let's celebrate our individuality and use our determination, perseverance, and citizenship as JOI Members to help our neighbors and friends. I hope to grow our Optimist family and expand our Membership to new countries and regions. In addition to this, I aim to increase communication. Whether it be from our Board to our Members, or connecting Clubs from varying nations, we can share our ideas and goals to play our part in making the world a happier place for all. My goal this year is to listen to and support YOU, JOI Members, and work as a team to expand our contributions through our work.

A special thank you to all the Advisors, adult allies, and JOI friends who have helped me become who I am today. To my incredible International Board and Committee, I look forward to making a lasting impact by collaborating with you all this year. Finally, thank you to all JOI Members - you are the reason our organization is so great and without you, we could not spread the much-needed message of Optimism across the world.

### FATIMA ZAIDI

2022-2023 Junior Optimist International President

### Share our passion:

1. Build a Club in a country new to Junior Optimist
2. Personal growth and service: PGI, Souper Bowl of Caring and Junior Optimist Reading
3. Get excited about the work you do

**Hello Junior Optimists,**

I am Maya Gluck, your Junior Optimist International Past President for the 2022-2023 year. I live in Orlando, Florida. I am currently at the University of South Florida studying Political Science. I have been in JOI for over 8 years and continue to make my mark in the organization. The positions I have served include: International



President, International Board Director for two consecutive years, District Governor, Lt. Governor, Club President, VP, and Secretary/Treasurer - in addition to many other committee positions. I received the 2017-2018 Member of Excellence award and Distinguished Governor ring for the 2019-2020 year.

I am so thankful for all the support and hard work of my Committee and International Board of Directors. It was such an honor to be able to work with such an amazing group of people. We were able to accomplish so much including the first ever legacy project, ABC book "Zoe the Zowie." The book was able to and continues to reach many people, children, schools, and libraries. I am also thankful for the cooperation on our podcast, webinars, and my monthly meetings, "Mondays with Maya." Furthermore, throughout the year we have been reaching to Clubs and Districts through attending conferences online including the Southeast Regional Conference online. This sharing and collaboration has helped create better awareness and fellowship for Junior Optimist. Lastly, I am overjoyed about how amazing our International Convention went. At the Convention, attendees were able to engage and participate in teamwork activities, our talent show, community service project, and our banquet.

As we look forward into the new Optimist year, I am so grateful to have worked with such an amazing team. I cannot wait for what we will do this year and I am so honored to be working alongside this year's International President, Fatima Zaidi, as well as the International Board Directors and Committee who will do an excellent job. There is so much enthusiasm aspiring from this group of people, and I know this year will be incredible!

- Maya Gluck

**Hello/Bonjour fellow Junior Optimists,,**

For those who do not know me, my name is Chloé-Angélique Bourré and I am truly honoured to represent you once again as one of your Directors on this year's Junior Optimist International Board. I live in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada's Capital, where I am an 11th grade student at Samuel-Genest High School. My Junior Optimist journey officially began five years ago, however I have been a part of many JOI activities for the past 9 years. I have held the position of Club President (3 years), Vice-President, and this year I am Secretary/Treasurer of the Junior Optimist Francophone Canadien (JOFC), a new pilot project replacing the St-Laurent Region. I truly love how this organization includes all generations and makes you feel that you are part of a big family that really makes a difference in our communities all over the world!



One of my goals this year is to continue improving our communications internationally, as well as sharing our projects and ideas with one another. I would also like to challenge you to share your JOI with everyone around you. If every one of you invites at least one person to join our organization, we would easily double our membership - so let's get recruiting!!

I take pride in being an Optimist and plan on helping this great organization grow in new countries as well as within our existing regions. I can't wait to hear about all your accomplishments and can't wait to see you at our International Convention in Arlington, Virginia.

- Chloé-Angélique Bourré

**Hello Junior Optimists,**

name is Charel El-Habib. I am a 17 year old girl, born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario Canada with Lebanese origins. I am fluent in English, French and Arabic. Since a very young age, I have always wanted to be a person that helped others and always aspired to give back to my



community. When I began at Samuel-Genest High School, I found a place that did exactly that. My JOI club has helped me tremendously. It has helped me make my life complete, and with it I have found a second family that has helped push me and grow as a person. The encouragement I have received from its members has helped and encouraged me to apply and try for higher positions such as Club President (last year) and this year - as well as my position on this year's International Board as one of your Directors. I am also this year's President of the Junior Optimiste Francophone Canadiens (JOFC), the pilot project in the St-Laurent Region that is in its second year.

This year one of my goals is to work with the other Board members to find new ways to build a better communication system between every Club, adult and JOI member to ensure our Optimist family continues to grow moving forward and ensure all our voices be heard. As this is my last year as a JOI member, I want to make sure that I make a difference for the JOI organization for years to come.

Thank you for trusting me to represent you as one of your Directors on this year's Junior Optimist Board

- Charel El-Habib

**Hello Junior Optimists,**

My name is Tahjey Lawson. I'm a Sophomore at Kettering Fairmont High School in Kettering ,Ohio. I have been with JOI for a total of 6 years. I have a held a Secretary/Treasurer and President position for my school's Club. I'm also the 2021-2022 Governor for the Ohio District.



I can't wait to work with so many new people and be more active in the International level.

- Tahjey Lawson

**Hey Everyone,**

My name is Mason McSwegin, and I am so excited to be one of your International Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 year! I have been in JOI for about seven years now. During this time, I have held the position of Club President and Lt. Governor. I have been to six District Conventions and six International Conventions starting with Albuquerque, New Mexico. I live in Dayton,



Ohio and I am a sophomore at The Dayton Regional STEM School. I have been going to a STEM school since the 6th grade, where I have learned a lot about how communication is vital for any functioning thing.

This is why one of my main goals for this year is to work on and improve communication between the Club, District, and International levels. I plan on doing this by expanding our social media outreach. By doing this, we will be able to provide all clubs and districts with important information, making sure no one feels secluded.

I look forward to working with all of you and meeting you at the 2023 International Convention in Virginia!

- Mason McSwegin

## **Brochures/Information:**

Junior Optimist for students

*The Torch* (Newsletter)

Public Service Announcement

Souper Bowl of Caring

## **PowerPoint:**

What is Junior Optimist International?

Building a Junior Optimist International Club

Junior Optimist Awards Program

[junioroptimist.org](http://junioroptimist.org)

(800) 500-8130

