

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

ISSUE 1: FRIEND OF OPTIMIST MEMBER

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The following proposal is presented to clarify the status of Friend member and to encourage Friends that want to be active in a Club and Club leadership should join the Club and pay applicable dues.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article III, Membership
Section 2. Friend of Optimist Member.
Any Member, due to relocations, and potential Members to areas where there are no Optimist Clubs convenient for them to join, may remain as Members or become Members of the organization except for cause or conduct unbecoming to the Club. The Friend of Optimist Member shall pay annual dues set forth in these Bylaws and shall have the same privileges as any Member of a Club, except that such Friend of Optimist Member shall be ineligible to vote at International and District Conventions and shall be exempt from any action by the Optimist Club's Board of Directors under Club Bylaw Article V – Termination of Membership.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article III, Membership
Section 2. Friend of Optimist Member.
Any Member, due to relocations, and potential Members to areas where there are no Optimist Clubs convenient for them to join, may remain as Members or become Members of the organization except for cause or conduct unbecoming to the Club. The Friend of Optimist Member shall pay annual dues set forth in these Bylaws and shall have the same privileges as any Member of a Club, except that such Friend of Optimist Member shall be ineligible to **serve as an officer of an Optimist Club and/or on the Club Board of Directors, or to** vote at International and District Conventions and shall be exempt from any action by the Optimist Club's Board of Directors under Club Bylaw Article V – Termination of Membership.

ISSUE 2: REVOCATION OF A MEMBER BY THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Submitted by the International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The following proposal is offered to allow the International Board of Directors to suspend or revoke an individual club member in question/or default of the “good character” requirement of Bylaws Article Section 1A until such time the issues of the concern have been resolved. This proposal is not meant to usurp Club Board authority. The proposal is simply meant to provide a vehicle for the Board of Directors to take action **in the rare instances** if a Club’s Board of Directors is unable or unwilling to do so. The proposal also divides the clause for easier understanding and clarification.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article III, Membership
Section 1. Clubs

A. Optimist Club Structure

1. Membership in Optimist Clubs

a. *General.*

Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article III, Membership
Section 1. Clubs

A. Optimist Club Structure

1. Membership in Optimist Clubs

a. *General.*

- i. Classification.** Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. ~~No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18.~~ Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable.
- ii. Military Duty.** As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.
- iii. Revocation of Membership.** No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child, ~~or~~ ~~person s~~ ~~under the age of 18~~ **or entity. Upon failure of the club board of directors to take action, any individual charged with conduct unbecoming an Optimist member, may be subject to suspension and/or termination after an investigation and/or adjudication by the Optimist International Board of Directors and after an opportunity to be heard. Said member shall receive a final notice of determination from the Optimist International Board of Directors. Such notice by the Board of Directors shall be given by certified mail and any other delivery method available.**

ISSUE 3: MEMBERS ACTING AS AGENTS FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES

(Submitted by the Optimist International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: This proposal is offered to address non-members that may act on behalf of an Optimist Club and putting a Club and Optimist International at risk for litigation.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article III. Membership

Section 1. Clubs

A. Optimist Club Structure

1. Membership in Optimist clubs

- a. *General.* Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as reserve membership, college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article III. Membership

Section 1. Clubs

A. Optimist Club Structure

1. Membership in Optimist clubs

a. *General.*

- i. Membership in an Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child or persons under the age of 18. Membership in Optimist Clubs shall be classified as active, and may be further classified as college membership, or life membership. All membership in Clubs shall be held by individuals. Such memberships are not transferable.

- ii. As to a person who has ceased being a member of an Optimist Club in order to complete a tour of duty with the armed forces, upon submission of enrollment with a Club after completion of the tour of duty, such Member shall be reinstated without the requirement to pay any processing fee to Optimist International.

iii. Revocation of Membership (if adopted from above).

- iv. **Individuals having executive or supervisory control or authority such as such as coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and other participants managing Club projects are required to be paid members of the Club to receive benefits of the Club, including liability insurance protection.**

ISSUE 4: DISTRICT OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS

(Submitted by the Optimist International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: The proposal addresses the implications of individuals not serving at least a full term as a Club President before being eligible to run for Governor-Elect. In order to have healthy Districts with leadership that is familiar to the demands and requirements of leadership, qualified individuals are critical. Should the delegates adopt the following amendment, the Suggested District Policies will be revised and will be a required change in District policies going forward.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article VII

Section 6. *Election of Officers and Governor-Elect, District.*

- A. *Qualifications.* No one shall be eligible for election or hold a District office unless he/she is duly enrolled on the International roster as a member of a Club in good Standing in Optimist International; and, with the exception of the office of secretary, treasurer or secretary-treasurer, has held or is currently holding the office of President of an Optimist Club.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article VII

Section 6. **SECTION 6.** *Election of Officers and Governor-Elect, District.*

- A. *Qualifications.* No one shall be eligible for election or hold a District office unless he/she is duly enrolled on the International roster as a member of a Club in good Standing in Optimist International; **and for the office of Governor or Governor-Elect, they should have served all of a term of Club President.** ~~and, with the exception of the office of secretary, treasurer or secretary-treasurer, has served all of a term as held or is currently holding the office of President of an Optimist Club.~~

ISSUE 5: OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS TERMS OF ELECTION

(Submitted by the Optimist International Board of Directors)

EXPLANATION: Members that are elected to International Board of Directors should serve the full 3-year term of the office. The intent of a 3-year Directors term of office was to establish continuity, experience and stable governance. Additionally, newly elected Board Directors are required to sign a commitment to serve a full term of office (3 years for International Board at large) prior to seeking candidacy for another office. Board Directors elected to a 3-year term of office should not be eligible to seek the office of President or Vice President until their final year of service as a Board Director.

CURRENT:

Bylaws Article IV. International Convention and Elections
Section 3. *Online Election*

C. *General Provisions.* No person may be a nominee for more than one elected office in any given year. All elected persons shall take office on October 1 next following their election. For each President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, between the annual convention next following the election as President-Elect or Vice President-Elect, as the case may be, and the assumption of office, such person shall be known as the President-Designate or Vice President-Designate, as the case may be. Those eligible for the office of Vice President, Vice President-Elect and Member-At-Large on the Board of Directors shall be a member of a Club in good standing in Optimist International, and they shall have served a full term as a District Governor. Those eligible for the office of President shall be a member of a Club in good standing in Optimist International, and they shall have served a full term as a District Governor and a full term as a Vice President. Elected officers and directors shall not be eligible to succeed themselves. For the office of International President, Board Director, or Vice President, an individual may only serve one term in the office which they are elected.

PROPOSED:

Bylaws Article IV. International Convention and Elections
Section 3. *Online Election*

C. *General Provisions.* No person may be a nominee for more than one elected office in any given year. All elected persons shall take office on October 1 next following their election. For each President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, between the annual convention next following the election as President-Elect or Vice President-Elect, as the case may be, and the assumption of office, such person shall be known as the President-Designate or Vice President-Designate, as the case may be. Those eligible for the office of Vice President, Vice President-Elect and Member-At-Large on the Board of Directors shall be a member of a Club in good standing in Optimist International, and they shall have served a full term as a District Governor. **No person who is currently serving as a Director-at- Large on the International Board of Directors may cause to have his or her name placed in nomination, individually or by the Candidate Qualifications Committee, unless he or she is in the final year of their term as a Director-at-Large.** Those eligible for the office of President shall be a member of a Club in good standing in Optimist International, and they shall have served a full term as a District Governor and a full term as a Vice President. Elected officers and directors shall not be eligible to succeed themselves. For the office of International President, Board Director, or Vice President, an individual may only serve one term in the office which they are elected.

ISSUE 6: THE OPTIMIST CREED

(Submitted by the Springfield-Luncheon IL Optimist Club)

EXPLANATION: The reason for this proposed change is to be more inclusive. It is perhaps easy to encourage one's friends; it is not so easy to encourage acquaintances or strangers. Optimists are not just "friends of boys" anymore, but "friends of youth"; we need to change with the times. We should not just inspire or reassure those whom we know; we should also sustain or encourage those who are not "friends." *(Please note, as this proposes a revision to Article 1 of the Optimist International Bylaws, this will need a 2/3 approval vote to pass)*

CURRENT:

Article I. Identification and Purposes

SECTION 3. *Official Creed.* The official creed of Optimist International shall be the Optimist Creed stated as follows:

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.

PROPOSED:

Article I. Identification and Purposes

SECTION 3. *Official Creed.* The official creed of Optimist International shall be the Optimist Creed stated as follows:

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~~ **all persons** 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.