

Summer 2015

The OPTIMIST

Gain a New Perspective at the
97TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

DAYNA STEELE

CONVENTION KEY NOTE SPEAKER
SATURDAY, JULY 11
1ST BUSINESS SESSION



LISTEN. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.

Success comes from talent and hard work every day.

Daily actions drive success.

Speaker, author and Your Daily Success Tip CEO Dayna Steele's core message is a simple one – you need a daily action list that becomes habit for success. What's on your list?



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– Readers' Digest Magazine

"Good old-fashioned, **simple success advice** that works"

– ABC News Now

IGNITING YOUR DAY

Dayna Steele is known internationally as the Daily Success Speaker with her tips reaching thousands of success driven people and companies every day. A top-rated keynote speaker on effective leadership, productive teamwork, customer service, and employee engagement, Steele inspires and creates success strategies for each audience. She is the author of the 101 Ways to Rock Your World book series, a rock radio hall of fame, and a successful entrepreneur as well as a regular contributor to The Huffington Post and Fortune 500 companies ... and a very amateur golfer.

Whether you are looking to lead a productive team, build a more creative environment or grow your association – it all comes down to what you do every day and the principles of success you adhere to.

"A woman with **ridiculously sane advice**" – Foreword Reviews

LISTEN. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.

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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Features

Summer 2015 | Vol. 96, No. 4

- 2 Letter from the President
- 6 Pay It Forward
- 8 Flags for Kids
- 10 History of Optimist Youth
- 14 Next Generation of Optimists Millennials
- 16 School of Medicine: Tulane University
- 18 97th Optimist International Convention
- 25 Bring Out the Best in Kids & Yourself
- 26 Quebec City: The City of Optimism
- 28 Being Led by Children

The Optimist

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On the Cover

Join fellow Optimist in New Orleans for a new view of the organization. See pages 18-19 for details.

Start, Continue and End with "WHY?"



A Message From PRESIDENT KEN GARNER

WHY did you become an Optimist? **WHY** do you remain an Optimist? **WHY** would you leave?
WHY did your Optimist Club begin? **WHY** does it continue? **WHY** might it disband?

Answers to these questions are likely as diverse and varied as each and every Member of each Optimist Club. Each Member interprets the Optimist Creed in a unique way. Some Members joined to work with children through sports, oratorical contests, mentoring, etc. Other Members enjoy the fellowship and feel as if they are part of a family - especially after being involved for many years.

Many Clubs formed for the purpose of completing specific projects. Longstanding Clubs seem to have evolved from their origin to include new projects. As opportunities arose for new projects and ideas, new Members have joined our organization.

No matter what the exact answer to many of the above questions is, one general overriding idea resides in each - OPTIMISM.

Each of us has optimistically joined forces with other like-minded individuals to make a difference:

In our community > In children > and/or In ourselves

We continue to be optimistic and stay active in our Clubs. We plan projects in hope at least one individual's life will be improved; even if that one person is the volunteer.

Optimists have been blessed with the gift of finding hope in despair, finding the positive in the negative and shining light into darkness. **Why** would we not share that blessing with as many people as possible? **Why** would others not be flocking to embrace such a fantastic opportunity to have this same power?

Why would anyone ever want to surrender such power unless they succeeded in eradicating the reason they first joined, or they accidentally forgot. If either of these apply to you, please look through this magazine to see all the ways that other Optimists have celebrated their optimism in their communities, with children and within themselves.

May each of you continue to ask "**WHY?**" and share your optimism with all those around you.

All the BEST,

Ken Garner



Multiplier Effect of Optimism on Financial Growth

Written by Paul Lucas, Chair of the International Audit and Finance Committee

The Optimist International Board of Directors, Audit and Finance Committee, and professional staff work diligently to protect and strengthen the fiscal health of the organization. They spend countless hours determining ways to reduce costs, maintain services, and increase net assets. These efforts are focused on serving our Members, Clubs and furthering the impact of our organization.

With Optimism at the core of our financial planning, here is a snapshot of the POSITIVE FINANCIAL RESULTS:

To think only of the BEST

The organization's BEST assets are Optimist Clubs and their Members. When formulating the budget, the financial leadership team focuses on funding items that are important and valuable to our Clubs and Members. The entire annual plan is built on channeling financial resources to best serve our first and foremost assets: Optimist Members and Clubs!

To expect only the BEST

The positive result of focusing on our BEST assets was an extraordinary turnaround in the organization's net asset position. At the end of 2008, the organization was in a negative Net Asset position of (\$248,787). On September 30, 2014, the Net Assets had increased by \$1,535,394 to a positive Net Asset position of \$1,286,607. This is the result of a disciplined approach to our finances, and sound financial management by the professional and volunteer leaders of our organization.

With your help, our organization is in an improved financial position and continues to focus on our core mission. We will continue to diligently manage the finances of Optimist International to ensure we are positioned to continue "Bringing Out The Best in Kids", our Members, and the communities we serve!

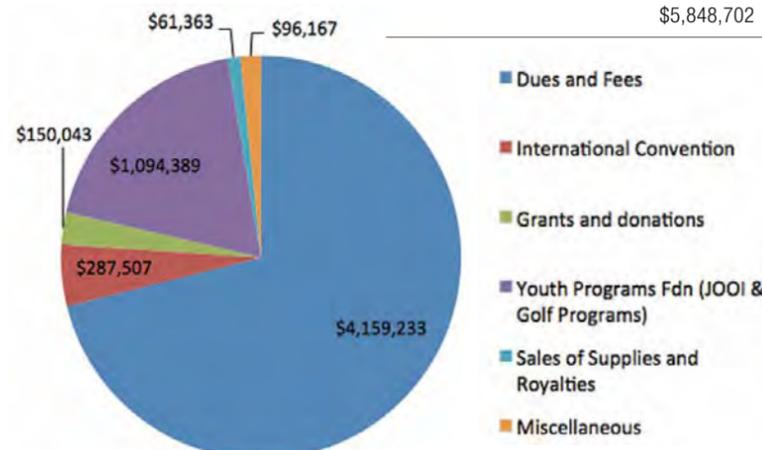
"To think only of the BEST, to work only for the BEST and to expect only the BEST"

- Tenet of the Optimist Creed

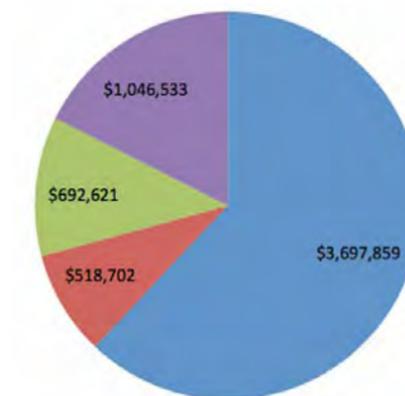
Questions regarding Optimist International's finances are always welcome. To view a copy of Optimist International's Fiscal Year 2014 audited Financial Statements, go to the Optimist International website and click on Administration.

REVENUES

Dues and Fees	\$4,159,233
International Convention	\$287,507
Grants and donations	\$150,043
Youth Programs Fdn (JOOI & Golf Programs)	\$1,094,389
Sales of Supplies and Royalties	\$61,363
Miscellaneous	\$96,167
	\$5,848,702



EXPENSES

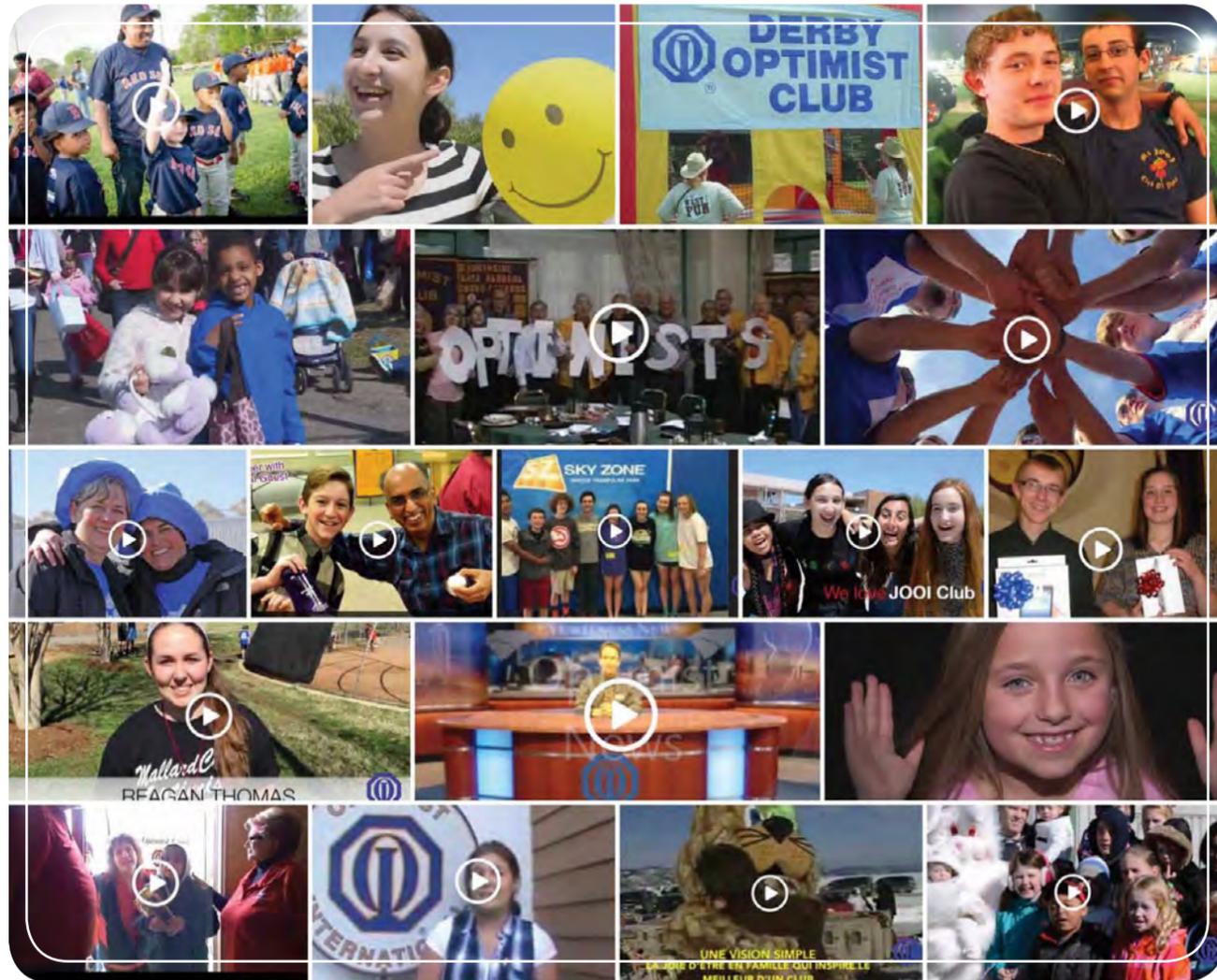


Programs	\$3,697,859
International Convention	\$518,702
Volunteer Leadership	\$692,621
General Management	\$1,046,533
	\$5,955,715

Reel OPTIMISM

WINNERS TO BE UNVEILED AT CONVENTION

VIDEO CONTEST



The 2015 Reel Optimism video contest received outstanding entries from adult and JOOI Clubs from throughout North America. Clubs were able to enter a video in either the 30 Second Challenge or Club Showcase category finishing the contest topic of "Optimists bring out the best..." Finalists were determined in April and Optimist Members and the general public were able to view, share and vote for their favorite video during the first half of May.

The winning videos will be shown during the upcoming International Convention in New Orleans. Members

representing the winning Clubs will be invited on stage to receive their Club grants courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

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

OPTIMISTS In Action Month

How did your Club celebrate Optimists in Action Month? Throughout the month of May, Optimist Clubs created a widespread spirit of unity bringing together Optimist Members and other community volunteers for a variety of local-based activities, fundraisers and special events. Members and Clubs shared their photos and videos on social media by tagging #OptimistsInAction. Optimist International wants to celebrate your Club's Optimists in Action Month success story! Send Optimists in Action Month stories to magazine@optimist.org for consideration for future print and digital publications.



[Optimist Club of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma celebrating Optimists in Action Month]

TRI-STAR UPDATE

The Tri-Star program has been updated to include the following sports: lacrosse, curling and golf. The program enables your Club to run one or several successful sports skills contests efficiently and with as little manpower as possible. If your Club currently participates in the Tri-Star program or is interested in participating, plan on attending the workshop at the International Convention in July! For additional information, visit the "Community Activities" section at www.optimist.org/programs



CLUBS HAVE PRIDE WITH A PURPOSE

Has your Club completed successful programs and activities this year? Make sure to note them on the President's Pride Report, now available for 2014-15.

The President's Pride Report allows Club Presidents to play an important role in deciding the future of Optimist International's programs and community activities. The information obtained will be used for prospective grants and will help determine what programs will receive emphasis in the future. The President's Pride report is also a requirement for an Honor or Distinguished Club.

The report is available on the Optimist Leaders website. Go to www.optimistleaders.org, log in and click on "Reports" on the right side of the screen. On the next screen, select the "President's Pride Report." Under each question are boxes that can be checked to indicate that your Club participated in that activity. If your Club participated in an activity that is not listed, type a brief description in the box marked "Other."

One of the best parts of the President's Pride Report is that you can fill out the form as you

complete the activities. Just go to the report, fill out the selected information as it happens and then hit the "Save" button. When you are filling in the dollar amounts, please round off to the nearest dollar and click the "Save" button or you will lose the dollar figure.

When the Club has completed the form by filling in the information for the entire Optimist year, an officer should click the signature button and the click "Submit." The form will be sent electronically to Optimist International. Please keep in mind that once you hit the "Submit" button, you cannot change or add any information to the report.

Hard copies can be printed from the "Forms" page of the Optimist website, www.optimist.org, and faxed or mailed to Optimist International. The form is due by September 30.

If you have questions, please contact the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via email at programs@optimist.org.

PAY IT FORWARD >

Submitted by Dennis Lane, Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club, Maryland-South Delaware District

Every year, multiple Oratorical Contests are hosted by Optimist Clubs and Districts. Many children and young adults compete for the chance of a scholarship. Like many Optimist Clubs, the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club in Maryland hosts an Oratorical Contest. The Club would like to share an inspirational letter from Jennifer Davis-O'Brien, a past scholarship winner of the Club's Oratorical Contest. As she describes in her letter, she grew up as an "Optimist Kid" thanks to the Ocean City-Berlin Optimist Club.

Hello from Sunny Palm Beach, Florida!



I wanted to write to you to express my gratitude and for all that you have done for the Ocean City-Berlin Community. I am a 2000 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School and was recipient of the Optimist Scholarship. I guess you could say I grew up an "Optimist Kid". I remember going on field trips to Busch Gardens for earning perfect attendance and wearing an Optimist t-shirt, having my sports teams sponsored, participating in the Oratorical Contest and finally, being a recipient of an \$8,000 scholarship my senior year.

I am writing to your Club to let you know that I have chartered a new Optimist Club here in Palm Beach County, Florida. My husband, two sons and I moved here about two years ago for my husband's job with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. When we moved here, I was eager to find a hobby or become involved in an organization. One day as I was clearing out some boxes, I came across a folder with the Optimist name on it. Inside the folder was my picture and fingerprints from 1988! I even found my husband's, who is also a Stephen Decatur High School

graduate. That is when it hit me - I need to be part of this organization!

I soon discovered that there were no active clubs in my area and reached out to Optimist International to see how to start one. I had the opportunity to meet Optimist International President Ken Garner, President-Elect Dave Bruns, and other Optimist International leaders at the Tournament of Champions event at PGA National. It turns out that it is just 3 miles from my home. I took that as a sign that I was on the right path.

Long story short, Optimist Club of Palm Beaches, Florida chartered on February 19 and we are so excited to be part of this organization. No one in our Club had even heard of the Optimists until I told them about all the ways I benefited growing up from your Club.

So a big THANK YOU to your Club for inspiring me to Pay It Forward.

Sending you Sunshine and Optimism,

- Jennifer Davis-O'Brien

Club President and Charter Member - Optimist Club of the Palm Beaches

Pictured are Jenn and her husband, Kevin O'Brien. Like Jenn, Kevin participated in Optimist events as a child, graduated from Stephen Decatur High School and is a Charter Member of the Palm Beaches Optimist Club.

Has your Club or District received feedback from a scholarship recipient? Submit your feedback to be published in *The Optimist* via email at magazine@optimist.org!

RECOGNITION OF YOUTH – IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS!

Submitted by Martin E. Waltemyer, South Strand Optimist Club, South Carolina District

In May of 2013, an Optimist Member of 24 years met with a senior Member of the Grand Strand Optimist Club to discuss the possibility of establishing a Club in the South Strand of the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina. The proposed service area would extend from Surfside Beach, SC to the City of Georgetown, SC (approximately a 30 mile long area). An attempt had already begun, but it had stalled.

During the initial discussion, the prospective Charter President outlined his thoughts about this Club. First, the Club would meet monthly and recognize youth at the luncheon meetings. Speakers would only fill in open months. Second, the Club would fund its recognition programs through corporate and individual sponsors. And lastly, the Club would seek assistance from local school officials and like-minded individuals to recognize the positive accomplishments of local area youth.

On September 19, 2013, the South Strand Optimist Club was chartered at its monthly meeting. Although the leaders were concerned about having the required 15 new Members, the Club chartered with 29 Members!

After an organizational Club meeting in October, the Club began its recognition programs at the Club's November meeting. The first recognition program involved recognizing local fire and EMS crew members who provided extensive service to the youth of the communities. The Club honored four members of local fire departments. The Club's second program involved recognizing a local high school choral group from Waccamaw High School called the Choralaires. This program recognized 15 students. The third program, held in January, involved recognizing the exceptional musical talents of the six local middle and intermediate school students. The fourth program in February recognized the Club's Essay Contest winner. The winner went on to place third in the South Carolina District competition.

The Club's fifth program in March honored six Oratorical Contest winners. The Club provided monetary awards, certificates of merit, and medallions to the first, second and third place male and female winners. The sixth program in April recognized six elementary students for their contributions to their schools and communities in six different categories of recognition. The seventh program in May recognized six high school students who achieved exceptional accomplishments while majoring in a career/technical field of study. The eighth program in June recognized six local law enforcement officers who spent a significant amount of their personal time assisting the youth of the surrounding communities.

Throughout the first year, the South Strand Optimist Club recognized 64 local children for their extra special efforts and provided, either through its sponsors or the South Carolina District, scholarships totaling \$6,900. The South Strand Optimist Club believes their mission was accomplished – the recognition of youth!

If your Club is interested in conducting any of these programs, contact the Club's President, Martin E. Waltemyer, via email at mwaltemyer@aol.com.





Flags for Kids

Written and submitted by
B. Roger Carter, Towne Lake
Optimist Club, Georgia District

Why do Members of an Optimist Club in a suburban county of Metro-Atlanta place over 600 U.S. flags in front of homes in their neighborhoods and by nearby businesses—six times a year? Flags measuring three by five feet and flying on ten-foot poles beautify their neighborhoods, of course, and demonstrate an appreciation of the U.S. But in addition, the flag displays are an annual subscription service provided by the Towne Lake Optimist Club for the benefit of children of the Club's home county. They call it their "Flags for Kids" program. If your Optimist Club is considering a new fundraiser, this could be it.

Mark Shriver, former President of Optimist International, is more emphatic. "The purposes of Optimist International include promoting good government, civic affairs and patriotism," states Mark, a Georgian who happens to be a Member of the Towne Lake Club. "I know of no other project that fulfills these purposes. 'Flags for Kids' quickly connects the Club to the community, enhances membership and provides significant financial resources for the Club," he said. "This is a project that can be adopted by any Club in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean."

At a \$40 annual subscription fee, over \$20,000 a year is now available to support children's causes. Subscription renewal rates are high. To save on expenses, the Club buys flag components and assembles them. The first year's subscription fee more than covers the cost of a flag. Maintenance expenses are minor. The six U. S. holidays included in the subscription are: Presidents, Memorial, Flag, Independence, Labor, and Veterans Days.

"Flags for Kids" requires a number of Club activities during the year, otherwise known as healthy exercise or work of the instant-gratification kind. Whenever more flags are needed, nearly all active Club Members gather on a Saturday at the home of Marvin Glanzer, a co-founder of the Club's program. Members typically assemble 50 to 75 flags in 60 to 90 minutes. The "flag-builds" are truly team building sessions, for the Club's Members and for the flags as well.

Typically, a two person team of Member-volunteers places flags a couple of days before each holiday and retrieves them a day or two after the holiday, using their pickup trucks and SUVs to transport flags to and from storage. One or both Members usually live in or near the neighborhood. For each new subscriber there is a one-time need to drive a foot-long plastic support-tube in the ground. A removable plastic cap is placed in the tube when the flag pole is withdrawn. A mark on the nearby curb helps locate the support tube when placing flags. In one neighborhood, Boy Scouts benefit directly as they and their adult leaders partner with the Club by placing and removing flags—as a fundraiser for their troop.

Club President Charlice Byrd speaks highly of "Flags for Kids". "Three years ago, we were scraping the bottom of our small fundraising pot," she explained. "And our then-President Matt Halloran and other Club leaders learned of the flag program at a Zone meeting, from a Club in the adjoining county that mentored our Club." Towne Lake Members were enthusiastic about the idea, worked together to start it, and were pleasantly surprised by the program's popularity with their neighbors and the public. According to Byrd, "Nothing succeeds like the success of raising more funds to benefit children of our county."



10TH ANNUAL COPS 'N CARS FOR KIDS

Submitted and written by Marc Beaulieu, Optimist Club
of Oviendo-Winter Springs, North Florida District



The Optimist Club of Oviendo-Winter Springs in the North Florida District partnered with the Oviendo Police and Winter Springs Police Departments this past January to co-host the 10th Annual "Cops 'n Cars for Kids" Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show. The annual show is a major fundraiser for their local Optimist Club. With attendance at their family-friendly event reaching as high as 8,000 each year, the Members of the Club and their police partners have raised more than \$25,000. The funds support Optimist youth and special needs programs, such as the Optimist International Childhood Cancer Campaign and their regional children's hospitals.

With 200 or more vehicles on display annually, children and adults are able to see over 30 current and classic police cruisers, motorcycles and specialty vehicles. Acres of cars and displays also include multiple helicopters, military vehicles and fire/rescue trucks. Activities are planned to thrill the thousands of kids in attendance, including face painting, clowns, Police Horse patrols, "Jaws of Life" and Police K-9 demonstrations.

Attend or even enter your own collectible car in the next "Cops 'n Cars for Kids" celebration and fundraiser at Oviendo Mall in Central Florida on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Event and sponsorship information are online at www.CopsAndCarsForKids.com or through the Optimist Club of Oviendo-Winter Springs at www.OWSOptimistClub.com.

History of Optimist Youth

Homes and Family Services Today's Children, Tomorrow's Promise.

Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services in Los Angeles is one of the oldest and largest non-profit child welfare agencies in North America. It has a long history of quality services to children and Optimist governance. Our Board of Directors is made up primarily of Optimist Club Members from the Pacific Southwest, Pacific Southeast and California South Districts of Optimist International. It is the only such arrangement in the entire USA.

In 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Strickland took in an orphaned nephew to their farm just outside the northern city limits of Los Angeles, which is still the main site of Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services today. Another boy – a ward of the court – arrived in the same year. By 1908, there were 13 boys living on the farm. The Stricklands supported the home by selling dairy products and chickens raised on their farm.

When Judge Curtis Wilbur, the presiding judge in Los Angeles Juvenile Court, was handling juvenile cases in Superior Court, he faced the dilemma of deciding where to place delinquent or orphaned boys. At that time, a reform school was the only place available, but in many cases it was not an adequate alternative. Judge Wilbur felt a home for boys was needed, and under his leadership, the Strickland Home for Boys was incorporated on April 13, 1914.

In the late 1920s, the Home and local Optimist Clubs began discussing working together. Increasing interest and important financial support from the Los Angeles Optimist Club resulted in changing the name to the Optimist Boys' Home and Ranch in the mid-1930s. At this time, the Strickland's had retired to San Diego and their gift of the property to the Optimists with the provision that the Optimists continue using the campus to serve needy children.

Submitted and written by Sil Orlando, Executive Director - Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services

During the 60s and 70s, because many of the youngsters in care were victims of divorce, abuse and neglect, it was determined there was a need for a more structured treatment and educational program. Classes were established on grounds for students having difficulties with the local school setting. In 1972, the Home began a major capital project; its own high school to provide classrooms and vocational training for its youngsters. The campus program expanded to accommodate 87 boys during this period.



In 1974 the Home undertook the development of our first community based six bed group home. Today the Home operates a total of four group homes, located in Los Angeles County. Two of the homes house boys and in response to a growing need, two accommodate girls.

Specialized educational services were provided for all students and in 1990, the Home implemented its own non-public school program. Today this program provides education to over 50 students, both boys and girls, ranging in age from 12 to 18.

An expansion to the campus facilities was completed in 1991, with the opening of the Haldeman Youth Counseling Center. This structure housed a special day program as well as the business office, computer operations, fund development and personnel offices.

In 1992, the agency opened a new Foster Family Agency program in order to respond to the growing need to individually place abused children in foster homes. Staff provides the foster families in the program with the support and technical assistance to fulfill the responsibility of helping these foster children who range in age from newborn to 17 years.

In the fall of 1996, the gymnasium was upgraded and renovated. Since its completion, many school ceremonies, recreational and campus activities have been conducted in this safe and completely refurbished facility.

In 1997, an independent living program was initiated. This necessary element provides continued assistance and support for graduates of the Home while they are continuing their education and becoming working members of the community. Two years later, another campus improvement was the upgrading and renovation of a three-bedroom house on campus for use as an independent living unit for an additional six residents.



In March 1999, the Home received an adoptions license. The license enabled the Home to help children in foster homes to be placed in permanent homes through the adoptions process.

In 1999, the agency contracted with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health in order to provide day-rehab services to our campus residents. This allowed for the addition of several services after school hours and on weekends. These services include music therapy, movement therapy, art therapy, substance abuse programs, specialized group therapies, recreation therapy and an expansion of services to families. The "doing business as (d.b.a)" for the overall facility was changed to Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services.

This latest expansion led to a severe space problem and therefore, the Home began a Capital Campaign in the spring of 2001 in order to construct a new 23,000 square foot "Youth Learning Center" on the main campus. The building opened in September 2005 and is named "The Everychild Youth Learning Center", after the foundation that gave the lead gift.

In 2001, the Home expanded the aforementioned mental health contract in order to begin an aftercare program allowing assistance to graduates with reintegration into the community. In addition, the Home began to offer mental health services to those placed in the foster family program and to detainees of Barry J. Nidorff Juvenile Hall in Sylmar. That same year the agency became nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation (C.O.A.) based in New York City. Only the nation's premiere agencies are C.O.A. accredited.

The fall of 2002 marked the beginning of the community mental health program allowing the Home to offer mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible children of Los Angeles County who are not otherwise associated with any of the programs offered at the Home.

In 2006, the Home's 100th Anniversary was celebrated.

In 2007, the contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health was extended to offer specialized programs to young people in the Palmdale/Lancaster area in order to divert them from residential care. This is a Full Service Partnership (F.S.P.) that is funded through the passage of the State's

Mental Health Services Act, a result of voters approving Proposition 63 in 2006.

The year 2007 also marked the beginning of a family finding program for the Home's residential and foster care youth who do not have parents available to them for a variety of reasons. The mentoring program was extended in 2007 in an effort to eventually help more young people in residential care have their own mentors.

In 2010, the Home began using evidenced based practices in many of the mental health programs.

A "Placement Assessment Center (P.A.C.)" unit was added to the campus program in 2012. This unit is designed to evaluate probation minors from Los Angeles County Probation to determine their future treatment needs. That same year the Home became part of a partnership with Los Angeles County in offering a specialized program for victims of sexual trafficking. In addition, the Home added whole foster family care to the foster care program enabling the Home to admit pregnant or parenting teens as residents.

Optimist Charter School opened in September 2013. This is a special charter school designed primarily to serve 100 probation and foster youth. The Los Angeles County Office of Education authorized this new venture and serve as partners in its operation. With this new addition to the program, the Home has become the first agency serving probation youth to have both a Charter School and a non-public school on a single campus to be able to meet all the varying educational needs of probation and foster youth.

The following year, the Home partnered with a sister agency to educate 30 of their girls in the Home's Charter School.

Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services is proud of its rich heritage and commitment to serving youth. With the help of Optimist charitable friends and others, the Home has been able to meet the changing needs of society for over a century.

The Home serves over 1200 children and families each and every year through various programs.

For more information, please visit www.oyhfs.org.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF OPTIMISTS

MILLENNIALS

WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY WANT, AND HOW TO ENGAGE THEM

PART I: FACTS ABOUT MILLENNIALS

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

With declining membership, service organizations have been looking for new ways to revitalize their ranks with a growing segment of the population – Millennials.

The Millennial Generation is defined as the demographic born after Generation X, born from the 1980's to 2000. They grew up in a time of rapid change, and have a different "worldview" than any other generation to date. Their perspective is often characterized as entitled and tech-obsessed and can be seen as focused on personal growth and maintaining meaningful relationships.

Organizations that can grasp this new perspective and understanding of what drives Millennials discover how to inspire innovation that attracts and keeps Millennials as Members.

Millennials are not simply the future leaders - they are the leaders and we need to engage them to move forward as an organization. Benjamin Franklin was a teenager when he started inventing. Many of America's Founding Fathers were young men under the age of 25 with ideas of a new nation on July 4, 1776. With this in mind, we can't discount the innovation that is the largest generation since the Baby Boomers. Clubs need to think outside the box and really take a look at the Millennial Generation.

FACTS ABOUT MILLENNIALS

- Largest generation in U.S. history – 92 Million
- Grew up with the internet and smartphones – they are digitally connected
- Socially connected to the online world and social media –
- 44% send text messages
- 38% use social media
- 38% send instant messages
- 16% are blogging and/or reading blogs
- Lower employment levels with smaller income – lower than previous generations
- Encumbered with debt – student loans are taking their toll
- Different priorities, putting off marriage and other commitments that traditionally cost more money. The average age for marriage is 30 years old.
- Majority live at home with their parents

(Source: Goldmansachs.com)

Knowing the unique experiences of each individual Member can give clarity of purpose, align leaders and inspire positive action.

Learn how you can inspire innovation that attracts and keeps Millennials as Club Members, community leaders and meaningful friendships for life in upcoming issues of *The Optimist*.



“HAPPY HOUR” OPTIMIST CLUB

Submitted by Mallory Quesenberry - Happy Hour/Lake Lotawana Optimist Club, West Missouri District

THE LAKE LOTAWANA OPTIMIST CLUB is pleased to announce the formation of the “Happy Hour” Optimist Club. For many years, the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club has been involved in supporting various youth events, programs, and activities in the Lake Lotawana community. In order to expand their reach, engage younger adults to get involved and give back to the youth in the community, this new “Sub Club” has been formed. The



Lake Lotawana Optimist Club held a drive to recruit younger Members and successfully added about 50 new Members under the age of 35. According to Stu May, President of the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club, “This new generation is an opportunity to bring fresh ideas, energy, and talents in our quest to provide local youth with various educational and wholesome activities. In fact, a number of these younger Optimists are now young professionals who benefitted in their youth from the Lake Lotawana Optimist Club in the form of scholarships, sponsorship of sports teams, and/or through activities sponsored through Mason Elementary School. We are extremely happy and proud of these young adults who now want to give back to the youth of our community.”

Since the formation of the “Happy Hour” Optimist Club, the Club has hosted many successful events and has recruited over 50 new Members! First, the Club provided Christmas presents to a family in Kansas City, including new bedding, clothes, shoes and games. Next, the Club sold over 150 t-shirts with their “Happy Hour” logo to the Lake Lotawana community to raise funds. After that, they hosted a Trivia Night to raise approximately \$2,000 for Missouri Leadership Seminar. The Missouri Leadership Seminar is held every year for a select group of high school sophomores to experience an unforgettable weekend of leadership training. Also, one of the Clubs Members, Michelle Barber, is extremely dedicated to Harvesters in Kansas City and several Members volunteered at their fundraiser, Forks and Corks. Harvesters is a

regional food bank providing food and related household products to a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. The “Happy Hour” Optimist Club celebrated their six-month anniversary with a Bowling Night at the beginning of April and had over 30 new Members pay their yearly dues. The

Lake Lotawana Happy Hour Optimist Club is excited to announce their first big fundraiser this summer, June 28 at Lake Lotawana. It's a fun day for the children of the community called Carnival on the Lake. There will be 4-6 docks around the lake providing fun activities such as fishing lessons, a magician, and a bounce house. The “Happy Hour” Optimist Club is devoted in making the Lake Lotawana community a better place to bring out the very best in the children.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT SEASON!



[Kansas City Summit]

The Leadership Summits visited nine cities in the United States and Canada between February and June. From Anaheim to Detroit, Optimists gathered for leadership training, new ideas and fellowship. The training for all Summits was presented by Certified International Trainers, including President Ken Garner. Due to the various training topics covered, Optimists from all leadership levels were encouraged to attend. The main goal of the Summits was to strengthen attendee's leadership skills to enhance service to others.

Optimists have spoken and they are raving about the 2015 Leadership Summits:

"A tremendous training experience with engaging topics"

"The Summit presented the 'Why' factor: why we as Optimists do whatever we can to help youth"

"Great information to take back to share with Members in my District"

"Enjoyed the comradery between Members, Optimist International staff, and International officials"

"The best feature is networking because these are the people I will be working with outside of my Club for bigger and better projects"

"Fantastic opportunity for Optimists, and for anyone looking to better themselves as a leader"

"Friendly reminder to relook at our mission as Optimists – to Bring Out the Best in Kids!"

Thank you to those who attended the 2016 Leadership Summits in the various cities. In the upcoming months, continue to check the Optimist International website for news regarding leadership training for 2016.

Share Your Summit Story: Have you attended one of the Optimist Leadership Summits? If so, we want to hear from you! Let us know about your experience, what you learned, and how you plan to implement what you learned in your Club or District. If you have photos from the event, please share those, too! Send your comments to magazine@optimist.org to be included in future publications of *The Optimist*.

[Trois-Rivières Summit]



[President-Elect Dave Bruns, First Lady Patsy Garner & President Ken Garner in Kansas City]



[Nashville Summit]

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL/WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ORATORICAL CONTEST

The new Regional/World Championship Contest will be June 23-24, 2016. Each Optimist District will have the exciting opportunity to send one of their District Oratorical winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts in their Region for a \$10,000 scholarship. The winner of each Region (eight winners total) will compete with the winner from St. Louis University's Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championship scholarship. There will be a workshop at the International Convention in New Orleans to learn how your Club can be a part of this exciting new venture. Whether your Club has hosted many contests or your Club is interested in conducting its first contest, the workshop is beneficial to all Clubs. The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International will be May 15, 2016.

For more information, contact programs@optimist.org.



ABOVE & BEYOND

The success of a District and its leadership team is in direct proportion to the dedication, work ethic, and creativity of the District's 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 during their year of service and develop the District's future leaders for years to come, Optimist International has established 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 2014-15 District Leadership Development Chair Dropbox folder by October 5, 2015. All District Chairs who attain the "Distinguished" status will receive a special lapel pin and the top three Chairs will be determined by taking the top percentages from requirements two, four and six.

- 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

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TULANE UNIVERSITY

Optimist International is pleased to announce Tulane University School of Medicine will host three workshops at the International Convention. The three workshops are General Sports Safety and Concussion Management, Hydration and Heat Related Illness, and Lightning and Emergency Action Plans. The workshops are tailored towards sport Clubs, but all attendees of the Convention are welcome.

Tulane University School of Medicine, located on the campus of Tulane University in New Orleans, is the second-oldest medical school in the Deep South and the 15th oldest medical school in the United States.

The workshop presenters are athletic trainers employed through the Tulane University School of Medicine. They provide athletic training outreach services to several area high school sport teams. For more information about Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine, visit tulane.edu/tism/



General Sports Safety and Concussion Management:

The workshop is aimed to help prevent the growing number of injuries, including concussions, among athletes. The training includes concussion safety tips and guidelines for managing these injuries. The presenter will also review best practices to support injury recovery including gradual return to learn and play procedures. With the increasing number of sport concussions among athletes and the complexity of head injuries, this workshop is extremely educational and recommended for Optimist sports Clubs.



Presented by Gregory W. Stewart, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Orthopedics, Chief of the Section of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Director of Sports Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine. He has served as a team physician for professional, collegiate and high school teams for over 20 years and currently chairs the Louisiana High School Athletics Association Sports Medicine Advisory Board. He serves on the advisory board of the National Council of Youth Sports Safety. Dr. Stewart was the principle investigator for a research study on mild traumatic brain injury in high school football funded by the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dr. Stewart is the recipient of the Louisiana Sports Medicine Society Jim Finks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Sports Medicine and has been inducted in to the Louisiana Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame.

Hydration and Heat Related Illness:

Hydration and Heat Related Illness will help Optimist sport Clubs understand two preventable sports injuries – heat-related illness and dehydration. The workshop will review the guidelines and suggestions for preventing, recognizing, and managing the potentially dangerous, and sometimes deadly, effects of playing in hot or humid conditions. The presenter will also review what it means to be "hydrated" and the guidelines to proper hydration.



Presented by Michelle Hubbard, MS, ATC, LAT

Graduate of the University of Florida (undergraduate) and University of Memphis (graduate), Athletic Trainer at the Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine, outreaches to Landry Walker and Kipp Renaissance high schools.

Presented by Matt Doell, MA, ATC

Graduate of South Eastern University (undergraduate) and University of Alabama (graduate), Athletic Trainer at the Tulane Institute of Sports Medicine, outreaches to Archbishop Shaw high school.



Lightning and Emergency Action Plans:

For Optimist sports Clubs, keeping athletes, volunteers and spectators safe during activities is very important. This presentation will focus on the important things to know about lightning, interesting facts, and common myths. There are many misconceptions about lightning and when conditions are safe for activities. The presenter will review lightning policies that are currently in place and the various ways to monitor lightning strikes. The workshop will cover the importance of being prepared for the unexpected and having a lightning action plan in place. Finally, the presentation will review what to do in the event of a lightning strike. Determining a Lightning and Emergency Action Plan ahead of time is beneficial. This workshop acts as a guide to outline safety options tailored to local circumstances, available equipment, and evacuation options.



STAY CONNECTED

WITH THE 2015 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



97th Optimist International Convention
JULY 9-11, 2015
 Hilton New Orleans Riverside
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

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 the all of the following and much more:

- HOTEL INFORMATION
- ONLINE REGISTRATION
- TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
- WORKSHOP LISTING WITH DESCRIPTIONS
- EXHIBITORS
- ABOUT NEW ORLEANS

FOLLOW THE FUN ON



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 97th Annual International Convention this July. While every Optimist may not be able to travel to New Orleans, they can still stay up to date on the events taking place!

Follow @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, #OIConv15NOLA, 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 New Orleans 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 #OIConv15NOLA to join the conversation and follow what other Optimists are saying. It's the next best thing to being there!

Select events of the 2015 International Convention will be streamed live. The July 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:
8:30AM-5:00PM WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

OPENING CEREMONIES:
7:00-9:00PM THURSDAY, JULY 9

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION:
9:00-11:30AM SATURDAY, JULY 11

SECOND/CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION:
1:30-4:00PM SATURDAY JULY 11

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT CONVENTION@OPTIMIST.ORG OR CALL (800) 500-8130.

FOUNDATION KIOSK

CHECK OUT THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION KIOSK AT CONVENTION. COME VISIT THE KIOSK AND MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF. WHEN VISITING THE KIOSK, BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE 2015 FOUNDATION CONVENTION PIN. THE LIMITED EDITION PIN SUPPORTS THE FOUNDATION'S EFFORTS TOWARD "HELPING OPTIMIST HELP KIDS"

The annual purse snatch is being held at the Foundation Kiosk during Convention. The purse snatch is a fundraising project of the Women's Philanthropy Council and Optimist International Foundation. New and gently used purses, bags, suitcases, backpacks, briefcases – for men and women – are donated and then sold to the highest bidder. Additionally, buyers can purchase a mystery bag which is guaranteed to exceed its price tag.

Make sure to include the Foundation Kiosk in your plans at 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 March 1, 2015 and May 10, 2015:

PGI LEVEL VII RECIPIENTS

Marty Waltemyr SC

PGI LEVEL X RECIPIENTS

Malcom Chapman	DMM
John Cowart	NMWTX
Theresa Jarratt	MI
John Leland LeMaster	INDN
Robert McFadyen	SWONT
Eugene Riordan III	AC
Abraham Walker	GA
Irvin Williams	SCTX

FOUNDATION HELPS FUND 20 NEW PROJECTS

Optimist International Foundation and the Club Grant Committee are pleased to announce the 2015 Club Grant Program winners! The Foundation gives out matching grants to 20 Optimist Clubs annually to help support a new charitable project. The winning Clubs will be awarded a \$500 matching grant at the International Convention in New Orleans. Congratulations to our 2015 winners:

ROCK Youth Development at Dunrobin Primary School

Royal Optimist Club of Kingston, Jamaica

Optimist Pram

Coastal Optimist Club of Wakulla, Florida

Professional Attire for Today's Graduates

Optimist Club of Olathe, Kansas

Children in the Middle

Millennium Optimist Club of Chula Vista, California

Kamp Invest for the Future

Kupsya Agents of Millennium Progress, Uganda

Child Safety Seat Clinic

Optimist Club of Las Cruces, New Mexico

Outdoor Chess Arena for the Evans Boys and Girls Club of Fort Smith

Optimist Club of Fort Smith, Arkansas

The Human Books Fair

Optimist Club of Central-Detroit, Michigan

ATV Safety Course

Optimist Club of Nebraska City, Nebraska

Lacrosse League

Optimist Club of Saginaw, Michigan

Celebrating Our Diversity

Optimist Club of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

CASA Kits

Optimist Club of Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Expressing My Passions

Sawnee Optimist Club of Cumming, Georgia

Explore It Science Program

Optimist Club of Sacramento-Breakfast, California

Respect for Law Family Night

Optimist Club of Kalamazoo Breakfast, Michigan

Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Carnival

Optimist Club of Redlands, California

Build With a Buddy

Optimist Club of Avon, Indiana

Swim Lessons for Treynor Kids

Optimist Club of Treynor, Iowa

Love Blankets for Kids

Optimist Club of Grand Prairie, Texas

Kids Etiquette Boot Camps

Optimist Club of Kansas City, Missouri

The Club Grant Program is an annual program that enables the Foundation to assist Clubs implementing new projects in their community. For more information please visit www.oifoundation.org/programs/club-grant-program or call the Foundation office at 800.500.8130.

THE MANY FACES OF OPTIMIST

JUNIOR GOLF



THE OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW EACH YEAR WITH THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER PHASE AT THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS. THIS WILL ALLOW MORE PARTICIPANTS TO PARTICIPATE THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Hats off to all of the Optimist volunteers who make the Junior Golf Program a success! Our local qualifier tournaments ran by Optimist Clubs and Districts are the true “driving” force behind our success. In 2015, we have hosted three Junior Tour Events in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Fort Worth, Texas and Winter Garden, Florida. The Optimist Junior Golf Program would like to add more locations. If interested in hosting an Optimist Junior Tour Event in your area, contact the Optimist Junior Golf Program via email at golf@optimist.org.

1 Patsy Garner and Dan Neer, Optimist International Junior Golf Championships volunteers



2 Colorado-Wyoming District Junior Golf Chairs Ron Cisco, Bob Meyer and Joe Marci



3 Iowa District Golf Tournament volunteers



4 Ken MacDonald and Wes Norris, Optimist International Junior Golf Championships volunteers



5 Kit Kelley, Kansas District



6 Optimist Junior Golf Staff -- Bob Patterson, Tournament Director and Sharon Parton, Manager



7 Phil Albert, Maryland-South Delaware District



8 Volunteers at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships



9 “I enjoy being around the young people and their families, and I love the competitive spirit of the game of golf.” - Terry Wright, Illinois District Optimist Junior Golf Chair pictured with Noma Wright.



10 Michel Geoffroy, Junior Golf Chair and participants from the St-Lawrence Region participating in the July 2014 Optimist Junior Golf Championships.



11 Optimist Club Members, Sponsors and Volunteers of the St-Lawrence District Qualifier. From left, Nicole Geoffroy, Valery Dussault, Aline Savard, Michel Geoffroy President of the St-Lawrence Region Junior Golf Optimist Club, Richard Boily, Benoit Latreille, Jean-Pierre Beaulieu, Nick Marando, Roland Tourangeau, Sylvie Cloutier, Roberge Béland and Jacques Pelland Senior Director O.I.



12 Left to Right, Jean-Pierre Beaulieu Executive Director of Golf Québec, Michel Geoffroy President of the St-Lawrence Region Junior Golf Optimist club and Nick Marando Branch Partner Assante Dorval, proud major sponsor.



Welcome

NEW Optimist Members

New Members help Clubs reach more children and provide service to their communities. They lighten the workload, bring new ideas and make activities more fun. Plus, they help ensure a brighter future for their Club. Here are a few of the newest Optimists.



MORGAN LAND, University Of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Optimist Club, Wisconsin

OCCUPATION: Full-time Student

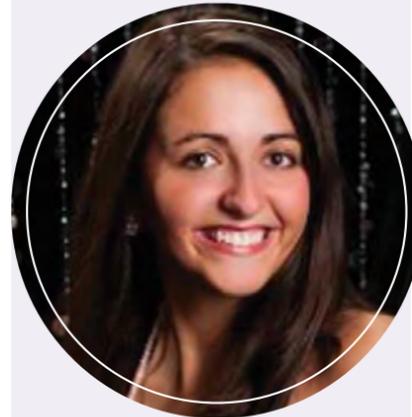
REASON FOR JOINING: As a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, I had been searching for opportunities to volunteer and interact with more people in the Eau Claire community surrounding our campus, and after hearing about the new Optimist Club that some fellow students were trying to get started, I figured it would be a great fit! Also, as a pre-Nursing student with hopes of working in pediatrics someday, the slogan "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" really spoke to me.

FAVORITE LINE FROM THE OPTIMIST CREED: To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

GREATEST THING ABOUT BEING AN OPTIMIST: Opportunities we are granted to interact with and make a positive impact on the lives of others in our community.

GOAL(S): As an Optimist Member, I hope to learn and grow from each and every person I meet through our Club activities and events, while leaving a smile on the face of every child! Also, as both a Charter Member and Board Member, I look forward to laying a strong foundation for future years of leadership and service in the Eau Claire community alongside my fellow Optimist friends.

FUN FACT: I love to travel, and I recently went on a mission trip to El Salvador in January.



DELANEY NELSON, University Of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Optimist Club, Wisconsin

OCCUPATION: Full-time Student

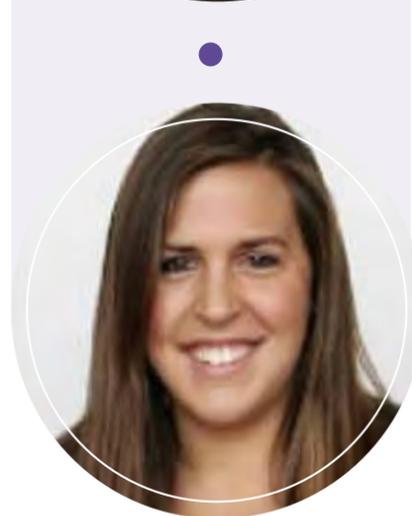
REASON FOR JOINING: To bring out the best in kids and have fun.

FAVORITE LINE FROM THE OPTIMIST CREED: To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

GREATEST THING ABOUT BEING AN OPTIMIST: Meeting people like you and partaking in a common goal to enrich people's lives.

GOAL(S): To make a difference in the lives of children.

FUN FACT: I am left-handed.



MALLORY QUESENBERRY, "Happy Hour"/Lake Lotawana Optimist Club, Missouri

OCCUPATION: Ophthalmic Technician

REASON FOR JOINING: The Lake Lotawana Optimist Club was a huge contributing factor of my childhood. I played softball for the baseball association they sponsor, was granted a college scholarship and traveled to Africa with the Medical Missions Foundation of Kansas City all due to the help of Lake Lotawana Optimist Club. As a young adult, I want to be a part of the wonderful organization that brought out the best in my upbringing.

FAVORITE LINE FROM THE OPTIMIST CREED: To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

GREATEST THING ABOUT BEING AN OPTIMIST: The greatest thing about being an Optimist is coming together with individuals who have the same priorities as you. I have made countless friends and mentors, as well as rekindling old friendships.

GOAL(S): As an Optimist Member, my first goal is to make a difference in at least one child's life a year and continue to do so the rest of my life. Secondly, recruit as many optimistic adults to become involved. And thirdly, live my life by the Optimist Creed.

FUN FACT: I have a twin brother who is a Board Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Joplin, MO.

BRING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS & YOURSELF!

Optimist Members spend countless hours serving their communities to "Bring Out the Best in Kids" all over the world. Activities generously performed by Optimists include organizing youth sports leagues, honoring outstanding students in their local schools, and tutoring youth in after school programs.



In fact, Optimists are so focused on "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" that they often forget about bringing out the best in themselves. The Optimist "Benefits of Membership" is a great way to remind Members of their own personal development. It is a great recruitment tool to show potential Members that in addition to serving their community, there are personal benefits to joining a Club. Use the "Benefits of Membership" to the right to remind current Members how they can bring out the best in themselves!

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Positive Emotion/Optimism: Scientific studies show optimistic people live healthier, happier, more successful lives than non-optimists. Surrounding yourself with positive people enables optimism to flourish.

Engagement: Youth projects allow the worries of the world to disappear when fully engaged in Club projects and activities in the community.

Relationships: The bonds of friendship formed in Optimist Clubs last a lifetime. Optimists have fun together, do business with each other, and help each other in times of need. Good relationships are one of the strongest predictors of longevity.

Meaning and Purpose: Optimists are a force for positive change in their community giving a larger purpose to their lives than the routine of everyday living. There is no greater reward than having someone express gratitude for the way their life was changed for the better through the actions of an Optimist Club.

Professional Development: The Optimist Professional Development program offers the opportunity for self-improvement that will be beneficial in business and at home. Many opportunities are available including project management, team building and marketing.

Business Networking: Build relationships within the community to promote your business.

QUEBEC CITY THE CITY OF OPTIMISM!

Written and Submitted by Nicola Delia, Canadian Service Center

As I write this, hundreds of youth have been positively impacted during the year thanks to the involvement of our Members within their communities. Spring is finally showing its first colors, helping us forget the long, sometimes rigorous, winter in some of our Districts.

Turning towards Quebec City, host city for the 2016 International Convention, we forgot winter's hardships to bask in the warm company of President Ken Garner and First Lady Patsy, as well as the welcoming committee of active Members from the Quebec East – North Shore District.

Many activities were scheduled for a weekend of enchantment: the opening of Winter Carnival and crowning of its Queen, a guided tour of the site with the Carnival's director, an appointment at the Quebec Hilton to arrange for the 2016 Convention, and of course, attending preparation of the Optimist family giant cake and the mini-stars show held at the largest shopping center in eastern Canada.

The presidential couple had the chance to stay at the Château Frontenac and hold precious memories of their time in the Vieille Capitale! They were treated to an honorary luncheon at the National Assembly where medals were presented to exceptional Members. In any event, let's recall that Optimist Day, an official event recognized by the Quebec government, got its start in Quebec City within the walls of the National Assembly.

After attending the opening ceremony of Winter Carnival's 61st year, we spent the afternoon with the District's Clubs in celebrating youths' artistic talent presented in the mini-stars show. Lastly, we were treated to a visit with Bonhomme (the mascot) and the duchesses during the weekend's awaited event, the cutting of the giant cake.

If you wish to experience Quebec City, join us for the 2016 International Convention! Not only will you be able to see the wonderful city, the sights and the people, you will be surrounded by 1000+ Optimists sharing in your experience. You will share ideas, build upon each other's Optimism, and see what brings out the best in other Optimist communities. We hope to see you in Quebec City in 2016 for a life-changing event.



1: Ken and Patsy established new friendships with Quebec East –North Shore District Optimist Members who worked diligently to prepare their visit and coordinate the schedule of activities.

2: Ken Garner is cutting the first of the 10,000 slices from the Giant cake with Bonhomme.

3: A honorary luncheon underlined the commitment of Optimist Members who generated a positive impact on hundreds of young people.



Since 1994, the Franco-Ontarian Games have been uniting francophone youths in Ontario. Each year, roughly 700 youths get together to show their talent in eight separate disciplines: trivia, circus arts, visual arts, dance, improvisation, media, music and sports

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO THE CALL

The Games constitute the largest annual gathering of francophone youths in Ontario. They ensure that all youths actively participate. The Eastern Ontario District is organizing the sixth edition of its benefit dinner to support the 22nd edition of the Games and their participants.

The francophone organization is comprised of 38 Optimist Clubs and more than 1200 Members, with the sole mission to help francophone youths in Ontario. The organization is completely dedicated to the cause with the goal of making sure no youth is left behind because of inadequate financial resources. It is engaged in helping them by paying for the cost of healthy meals and serving them during the weekend of the Games.

The benefit dinner includes a four or five course meal and the night will be hosted by a live singer. The Eastern Ontario District is organizing the dinner in cooperation with the CCOF in order to provide income tax receipts. Since the event has begun, the Eastern Ontario District has raised close to \$20,000 for the *Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)*.





BEING LED BY CHILDREN

Written and Submitted by Julie Helmers –
Orchardly Helpers JOOI Club Advisor, Ohio

Being led by the hearts of children requires taking a big leap of faith! Their big ideas and blind trust that things will work out can cause a feeling of protectiveness to rise up in me as an adult. I want them to feel great about what they are doing even if the results are less than they expect. What I am beginning to see is I need to take that leap with them. Expect the best, hope for the best, work for the best, believe in the best, and then let it unfold in whatever way it will.

Our JOOI Club, the Orchardly Helpers, is a brand new Club. When I decided to start a Club in the school in which I work, I wasn't sure what the interest level would be. I wanted to give our students a chance to be part of something that encourages leadership and an opportunity to serve others. Before I knew it, we had 19 Charter Members! They are full of energy and enthusiasm, and bursting with ideas of ways to serve others.

We looked at the suggestions on the Optimists website to start narrowing our focus. They chose the Childhood Cancer Campaign and the JOOI of Reading program to start with. It was mid-January, and the idea sprung up to have a Valentine's Day dance at school for families to raise money for Children's Hospital of Dayton. With only a few weeks to prepare, we began to plan a family-focused dance where people could have a great time and make valentines for the patients at Children's.

The principal was a little nervous about the idea of a dance in an elementary school, but we assured him no student would be able to come without an adult, and music would be kid-friendly and pre-approved. We reserved the school cafeteria for the Friday night before Valentine's Day, which happened to be "Friday the 13th." Instantly the JOOI Members had lined up a DJ for the night. A parent from the school volunteered to bring his equipment and check the play list. Posters went up, announcements were made over the intercom at the elementary school, and ads were sent home with all of the students. Every JOOI Member of the Club was eager to help in some way, and the excitement was growing.

I started to worry that the kids' expectations would be greater than the outcome. What if people didn't come? What if we didn't raise much money? How would the JOOI Members of the Club feel if the dance is a disappointment? I began to cautiously remind them that even if it was only us at the dance, we would have a good time, make valentines, and have a small contribution to give. As Optimists, we planned for 100+ attendees, which is far from the usual turnout for fundraisers like this in our school.

Finally, the night of the dance arrived. We decorated and got ready for our guests to arrive. About 20 minutes before the official time for the dance, families began to arrive. Many of the kids were even dressed up for the occasion. My heart warmed at the sight of whole families coming in to spend the evening together and with us. For the next 45 minutes there was a steady stream of people arriving! All thought of counting people went away as I welcomed family after family to our event. One of my parent volunteers came to me in amazement at the size of the crowd and said "This makes me want to cry!" I knew exactly what she meant.

By evening's end, we had raised \$1124.50. The JOOI Members were so proud and happy, and the families were proud to be part of it, too. All of my worries had been for nothing. The next day, we took the valentines that everyone made to Children's Hospital. On the way home, the girls who were with me started brainstorming for the next project we are planning. I listened with such pride as they opened their hearts to really reach out to the children in the hospital.

We are hoping to make YouTube videos of our Members reading books to the patients in the hospital since we can't do it in person. Needless to say, I am ready for this new adventure in a less worried, more optimistic state of mind. I am so grateful to the Orchard Park family for supporting the Junior Optimists. Great kids, great staff, and amazing parent volunteers make it a great community to be a part of. We are only a small part of our students' lives, but I hope our impact will be felt for years to come.

COMMUNITY IMPACT BUNDLE



Optimists are known for bringing out the best in children, the best in their communities and the best in themselves. Now, **YOUR CLUB** can celebrate the individuals in your community who help your Club be the best that it can be!

Available for a limited time only, the **COMMUNITY IMPACT BUNDLE** is a way for your Club to honor and recognize the difference-makers in your community who share the same values as your Club. For only \$300, this bundled package includes six (6) Friend Memberships.



Use these Friend Memberships to:

- **HONOR** your town's mayor
- **RECOGNIZE** outstanding teachers & educators
- **THANK** law enforcement personnel
- **CELEBRATE** your Club's guest speakers
- **APPRECIATE** youth coaches
- **REWARD** your Club's partners & supporters

Rules & Regulations:

1. Bundles must be purchased by September 30, 2015. Each Friend must then be activated by December 31, 2015. Clubs will not be refunded or credited for any Friends that are not activated by 12/31/15.
2. Friends count toward membership in the Optimist year in which they are activated.
3. Clubs will not receive any reimbursement for Friends in the Community Impact Bundle.
4. Once activated, the Friend Membership is valid for one calendar year from the date it was activated.
5. If a Friend decides to renew after one year, it will cost the regular \$100, and the Club will receive \$40.

TO ACTIVATE INDIVIDUAL FRIEND MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE SUBMIT AN [ACTIVATION FORM](#)

Visit
www.optimist.org/impact
for more information
and activation form.

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

589 Marge A. Hopkins

Top Ten as of February 28, 2015

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Kathleen Paulson	\$11.00
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$10.69
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$10.29
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$9.68
New Mexico-West Texas	Ludwig Bezemek	\$7.41
Pacific Central	Mary Boglarsky	\$6.72
Oklahoma	Patricia Thomas	\$5.76
Colorado-Wyoming	Steve Gorrell	\$5.70
South Texas	Jose Montoya	\$5.56
California South	Al Vinson	\$5.25

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Ray Finocchio	\$14,527.00
Maryland-South Delaware	Jack Evans	\$13,710.25
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$13,269.43
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$10,321.50
Colorado-Wyoming	Steve Gorrell	\$9,324.25
Arizona	Kathleen Paulson	\$8,504.15
South Texas	Jose Montoya	\$8,191.85
Iowa	Dave Mason	\$7,961.82
Southern Wisconsin	Maureen Crombie	\$7,844.05
Georgia	Joey Richardson	\$6,994.10

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota Pacific Northwest	Vince Parker	\$56.24
	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$13.28
	Peter Smith	\$7.14

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming Midwestern Ontario Southwestern Ontario	Vince Parker	\$49,548.94
	Jim Dandy	\$10,547.15
	Gordon Brownlee & John Post	\$9,896



Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from January 1, 2015 – February 28, 2015 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

GOLDEN BENEFACTOR - \$50,000

ALBERTA-MONTANA-SASKATCHEWAN
& NORTHERN WYOMING
James B. McKinnon

SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

SOUTH CAROLINA
Melvin D. Bannister

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ARIZONA
Barbara Mabee
GEORGIA
Robert and Alice Kuzniak
MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
Optimist Club of Cockeysville, MD
MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Shakespeare, ON
MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Twin Cities-Waterloo Region, ON
WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Chilton, WI

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

ALABAMA-LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI
Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, AL
NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Optimist Club of Albemarle, NC

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

ALBERTA-MONTANA-SASKATCHEWAN
& NORTHERN WYOMING
Marilyn Bushell
ARKANSAS
Margaret V. Ingle
CENTRAL ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Strabane, ON
NEBRASKA
Richard J. Quinlan
WEST MISSOURI
Robert and Debbie Floyd

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ALBERTA-MONTANA-SASKATCHEWAN
& NORTHERN WYOMING
Eric Merriam
EASTERN ONTARIO
Ginette Quesnel
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Forest, ON
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Ilderton, ON
WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN
Teresa M. Weber

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

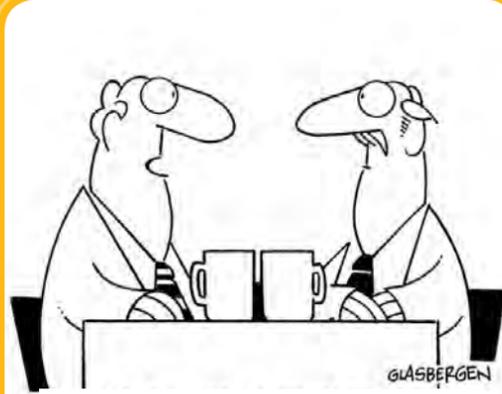
ARIZONA
Kathleen E. Paulson
KANSAS
Muriel A. Walpole
MICHIGAN
Daniel J. Mills
NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
Suzann Owings
NORTH FLORIDA
Shirley A. Thomson
QUEBEC EAST-ACADIA
Alain Boucher
QUEBEC EAST-ACADIA
Madeleine Poulin
QUEBEC EAST-ACADIA
Club Optimiste de Ste-Anne Des Monts, QC
QUEBEC WEST
Pierre Latour



For more information about the activities the Foundation has planned for the 2015 International Convention, refer to page 20.



"According to our records, you spent 6.23 years of your life deleting spam from your email."



"I had a wonderful time at my class reunion. I paid my son to go as me!"

At a senior citizens' function, I watched an older fellow ease his wife ahead of him in line. "You ask for the tickets, dear," he told her. "You look older than I do." Seeming to ignore his uncomplimentary remark, she stepped up to the counter. "I'd like two tickets, please," she said loudly. "One for me and one for my father."

"Can you boys tell me where the town hall is?" asked a preacher. "I'm speaking there tonight." After getting directions, he invited the boys to attend, saying, "I'll tell you how to

get to heaven." "Are you kidding?" one of the boys responded. "You can't even find the town hall."

A little boy's second grade class was asked to write about their personal heroes. His father was flattered to find out his son had chosen him. "Why did you pick me?" he asked, hoping to hear praise. "Well, Dad," his son replied. "I couldn't spell Arnold Schwarzenegger."

Betty looked a little uncomfortable leaving the doctor's office. Her friend

Maggie asked what was wrong. "The doctor says I will have to take this medication for the rest of my life," replied Betty. "But it's only a two-week supply!"

A gentleman in a restaurant called the waiter to his table as soon as his meal was served. "Why is my chicken missing a leg?" he demanded of the waiter. "I guess it was in a fight, sir," the waiter shrugged. "Well, then," the diner replied. "Take it back and bring me the winner."

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OLD TIMERS BREAKFAST ENTERTAINMENT THE SATURDAY, JULY 11, 7-8:30AM CRESCENT CIRCUS

Morgan Tsu-Raun and Nathan Kepner began working together as The Crescent Circus in 2009. While Morgan started as a hula hoop performer and Nathan as a magician, when the two joined forces their performances grew to become a fusion of acrobatics, a variety of juggling arts and physical comedy. Beginning their work together as street performers in New Orleans, the duo quickly moved from the streets to stages across the country. Some of their most notable achievements have included being named "World Champion of Stage Magic" at the World Magic Seminar, performing at The Magic Circle in London and appearing on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Now Nathan and Morgan regularly entertain for corporate events, colleges and festivals throughout the United States.



WWW.CRESCENTCIRCUS.COM



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I AM AN OPTIMIST...
TO GIVE BACK
TO HONOR YOUTH
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
TO MEET NEW PEOPLE
TO LEARN NEW SKILLS
TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS

Your Club is urged to do its part in setting its own goal of increasing membership between now and our 100 Year Anniversary.

Celebrate our Heritage...ASSURE OUR FUTURE

