

October 2009



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Land of Lincoln



From your Governor

With a brief ceremony conducted by International Vice-President Edwin Wint, I was sworn in as Governor Designate on August 1st, for a one year term beginning October 1st.

It truly is an exciting and wonderful thing. I know I face many challenges in the 2009-2010 Optimist year. The biggest one is ending the decline in membership and building new clubs-both adult, college, and JOII.

Illinois has almost 12,500,000 residents spread out over 102 counties. We have many accredited colleges and universities. Yet we have just over 2,000 Optimists and no college clubs.

Clearly, we need to GROW! This won't be easy, yet I don't feel I'm being Don Quixote and dreaming an impossible dream. I want every club to seriously consider sponsorship of a new club or JOOI club. The rewards from starting a new Optimist club are infinite, and worth the hours you'll put in.

Attendance at our conferences and conventions has dropped markedly in recent year, and this is my second area of concern. Every club should have a line item in their budget to offset travel expense by their president or delegate. Conferences are where ideas are shared and knowledge gained, and it is a reasonable expectation of the Governor that club presidents attend at least half of the quarterly meetings.

Participation in the Essay, OIJGC, Oratorical and Poster contests has also fallen. These are very low cost events for a club be involved in, and a great way to publicize your organization to the community. The District Chairs will be more than willing to walk you through the necessary steps. We have 57 clubs in our state-how about one out of every three introducing sharing these events with your community?

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Remember:

- District Meeting is Nov. 6 & 7th
- Recruit New Members
- Consider building a new club

From the Governor (continued...)

The CCC is as noble a program as there is. Whether it's by financial support or by working at Camp Coco in Lake Bloomington or Camp One Step in Lake Geneva it's a fantastic thing to be involved in. Every club needs a CCC chair, and every club needs to support this mission.

This year, the most important new program in years was introduced at the International Convention. Internet Safety training will be given at the Decatur conference. My goal is for at least half the clubs in this state to conduct the seminar on the same day. It's a golden opportunity to let the public know who we are and what we do.

Support for the O.I. foundation needs to continue. Without it, much of what we do would cease. If your club does not have a Foundation Representative...get one! Sandi Schmidt, our District Foundation Representative, will be more than willing to explain the various levels of giving.

Our A & A (Achievements and Awards) programs is a way to get your club in the spotlight, and to earn points that can be traded in for all kinds of fun merchandise at the August convention. Look for details on this in this bulletin

I wish every Optimist in the state a happy, healthy and successful year . Always remember to promise yourself to the kids. Be the light!

Coming to your club soon!!

Thanks for electing me Governor-Elect, Sandi and I consider it an honor to represent the Illinois District. I plan to visit every Illinois Optimist Club in the next two years. I would like to bring the District to your club and talk about how we can "Bring Out The Best In Kids". Please contact me to schedule a visit.



Lt Governor, Marty Schmidt & Sandi

Marty & Sandi Schmidt

309.792.1485 / schmidtm@mchsi.com

Sock the Governor

Have you ever wanted to sock the Governor?

Well, here's your chance. Gov. Chris is asking all members who attend conferences to bring a new package of kid's socks, gloves, hats or mittens with them. Those that do so will earn A & A points for their clubs at 50 points per item. The points are tallied and used to bid on auction items at the August con-

vention.

The items will be distributed to an appropriate place at year end, such as a Goodwill or Salvation Army store.

You can also give the Governor your undies. There's always a need for kid's socks and underwear in the same stores. Once again, new only please.

Here's your chance to sock the Governor!

Anti-Drug Poster

The 2010 anti-drug poster contest theme is “Hugs, Not Drugs” The contest rules are the same, but the prize structure is new. Instead of savings bonds, the prizes for first, second and third place boys and girls will be checks of \$100.00, \$75.00, and \$50.00. Prizes will be judged at the May conference in Peoria.

The following are the rules and guidelines:

SIZE: Horizontal poster board

12” x 18”

THEME: Hugs Not Drugs. The theme must appear on the front of the poster. The club must send in a \$20.00 entry fee per poster. They cannot use a poster more than once.

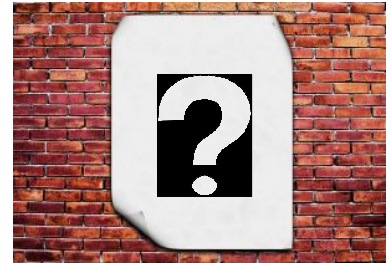
DESIGN: Make it original, and make good use of your space.

COLOR: One color for letters works best. Bold colors work better than drab. You can use markers, paint, crayon, colored

paper, or pictures from a magazine.

District contact is:

Steve Meinecke at
847-824 6083



New Club Building

We had some great training at the Convention in Springfield and many of the Lt.. Governors identified towns to where we wish to spread Optimism and to serve more kids. Burt Wikgen and myself are committed to help you in those efforts. Jerry Kiley from the Oswegoland Club is already working on one. He has an informational meeting

set up for early October. Building clubs is not for everyone but it is important that we spread the word. It is most gratifying to see the excitement when a new club is started and knowing many more children will be served.

Connie and I will be moving to Florida on 10/2 and will be gone

until April. We are both certified club builders so we could come back to help. I also have people from other Districts that will come and help. We are very committed to help in any way possible.

Jerry Emery
630-853-4370

District Contacts

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A & A 2010

It is that time again to be thinking about the A & A Program. The points are broken down below.

Thank you for your continued support and if there are any questions, please call me at 1-630-554-2590 or e-mail me at deberard@comcast.net

Dr. Jacqueline DeBerard, D.N.

2009-2010 A & A Program

Growth T-shot report

Net gain in new members 250 ea

Maintaining Oct.1 starting membership 250 year

Service Clubs

Club service projects (this are members donate their time, if they are fundraisers for another organization that information must be included) 250 ea

CPA submittal 250 ea 4 max

Dues Secretary Treasurer

District dues on time 250 Bi annual

International dues 250 Quarterly

Reports Secretary Treasurer

President-Elect report May 20th 250 ea

Presidents Pride Award - Sept. 30th 250 ea

JOOI Club Sponsor Clubs

Building a new club 1000 ea

Continued support of a club 250 ea

District/Zones Meeting Attendance Secretary Treasurer

District Meetings - President Designee 250 Quarterly

Secretary Treasurer 150 Quarterly

General Members 4 max 100 Quarterly

Non members spouses 4 max 100 Quarterly

Zone meetings - President Designee 250 Quarterly

Secretary Treasurer 150 Quarterly

General Members 4 max 100 Quarterly

A & A 2010 (continued)

Zone meetings - President Designee	250 Quarterly
Secretary Treasurer	150 Quarterly
General Members 4 max	100 Quarterly
Non members spouses 4 max	100 Quarterly
Donations at District/Zone Meetings -at check in ***	
Socks, gloves, hats, scarves brought to meetings	250 ea
Intra-Club Visitations Clubs	
Four members make a visit to another club	100 Quarterly
District Programs Clubs	
Cancer Camp	250 ea
Drug Poster Contest	250 ea
Essay Contest	250 ea
Hearing Impaired Contest	250 ea
Jr. World of Golf	250 ea
Oratorical Contest	250 ea
Respect for Law	250 ea
Youth Appreciation	250 ea
OI Foundation - Designated Contribution to OI Clubs	
Of \$10.00 per member	1000 year
Of \$7.50 per member	750 year
Of \$5.00 per member	500 year
New Club Building Governor	
Build a New Optimist Club	3000 ea
Governor's Bonus Governor	
Governor's Membership +10	2500 year

The Foundation of our SUCCESS!

Optimist International and the **Optimist International Foundation (OIF)** are two separate organizations, but they are one in mind and spirit. Optimist International defines the programs and the Foundation works to finance those programs. We can all be part of the Foundation's success! To all the clubs and individual members who are already supporting the Optimist International Foundation, THANK YOU!

Fun Foundation Facts:

1. One highlight of every Illinois District Conference is our auction for the Foundation. You and your club can support the silent auction and the live auction by donating a fantastic prize for everyone to bid on and by joining us for the fun at our District Conference in Decatur on November 6-7.
2. The scholarships for the Oratorical, Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), and Essay Contests were increased to \$2,500 for each scholarship beginning October 1, 2009. All of these scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation.

You can become a "*Dime a Day*" member and earn a great pin to recognize your support of the Optimist International Foundation for a donation of just \$36.50. You can make your donation online (<http://oifoundation.org/donorlink.htm>), by phone (1-800-500-8130 – ask for the Foundation), or by talking to me at our District Conference.

Club Presidents can appoint your Club Foundation Representative (CFR) online at <http://oifoundation.org/feedback/fb-repscfr.htm>. It's quick, easy, and a great way to help your club "Be the Light" and support the Optimist International Foundation.

Would you like to know more about the Optimist International Foundation? Check out the Foundation's web site at <http://www.oifoundation.org>, join us at the District Conference, or contact me to get more information. You'll be glad you did!

Sandi Schmidt

District Foundation Representative

SchmidtSandraJ@JohnDeere.com

309.792.1485 (home)

District Meeting

Illinois District – 1st Quarter District Meeting
Friday and Saturday November 6th. and 7th 2009
Decatur Conference Center and Hotel
4191W. US Highway 36, Decatur, Illinois
Room Rate: **\$82.00/Double-Single**

Make your hotel reservations directly to:	DEADLINE: October 26th
Decatur Conference Center & Hotel	
Decatur, Illinois 62522	Phone: 217-422-8800.

Pre-Register below for the 1st Quarter District Meeting

NO PHONE RESERVATIONS PLEASE

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____
Address: _____ Optimist Club: _____ Zone: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Children's Program 9am to 5pm – Please indicate number of children

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

If you have more than two children attending the conference, please attach a separate listing of their names and ages

District Office, Committee, Club Office, Member Please print your NAME and appropriate position or office above. DO NOT LEAVE THIS BLANK
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Pre-Registration by October 26th

Optimist member registration # _____ @ \$10.00 = _____

Saturday Lunch # _____ @ \$20.00 = _____

(Beef Tips Lyonnaise)

Total _____

Send the above form with your check(s) made payable to:

Secretary-Treasurer
Bill Powell
129 Oaklawn
Oswego, IL 60543

District Meeting Agenda

Illinois District – 1st Quarter District Meeting
Friday and Saturday November 6th. and 7th 2009
Decatur Conference Center and Hotel
4191W. US Highway 36, Decatur, Illinois

Saturday, November 7th

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30-8:30 | PGA Meeting |
| 8:30-9:45 | District Board Meeting |
| 10:00-11:30 | Websites and Joy Club Presentations |
| 11:30-12:30 | Brief Presentation by A&A, Poster, Essay, Golf, Bulletin,
New Club, New Members, CIT, and Oratorical Chairpersons |
| 12:30-2:30 | Lunch with Auction and Governor's Address |
| 2:30-4:00 | Internet Safety Presentation followed by Round Table Discussion
by Chairpersons |

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Do it for the KIDS!

We're on the Web!
example.com

Changes to the Land of Lincoln Bulletin

In a time of economic uncertainty, all organizations must attempt to save money where they can. A major change to the distribution of the bulletin was discussed and approved at the August convention. This will be the last issue that is printed and mailed to all Optimists in the Illinois district. Future copies will be emailed to all club presidents, Lt. Governors, and District Committee Chairs. They will also receive hard copies. The cost of printing and mailing more than 2,000 copies is considerable, and when bulk mailing was used, serious delays in receiving the bulletin on a timely basis were experienced. It will be the responsibility of club presidents to make copies available to their members. Each president should have an email data base of membership.

This change was not made without consideration of its impact, and will save the District several thousand dollars annually in printing costs.