

October 2011



Illinois District

Land of Lincoln Bulletin



From the Governor

As I sit down to write this, I look back on all the clubs I have visited recently. Some clubs meet in their favorite restaurant or coffee shop while others have their own club house to meet in. Some meet twice a month or every week, in the morning for breakfast or lunch at noon while others enjoy dinner at their favorite restaurant or their club house. They may all be different on how or where they meet but they all have one thing in common, optimism. They are all very involved in the community by working with kids in the many programs made available by Optimist International or projects the clubs themselves come up with. There is nothing wrong with clubs coming up with their own programs but if they choose to ignore the programs such as the Oratorical contest, the Essay contest, Jr. Golf just to name a few; they do a disservice to the kids by denying them a chance at a scholarship or a chance to play in the International Jr. Golf Championship.

All this is only possible by continually recruiting new members and building new clubs. With new members comes new ideas and without new ideas we become complacent with what we are doing and wonder why we are not growing and doing more for the community. Just think what we could do if only 1/10 of the membership recruited just one new member and we replaced any member lost during the year; and remember what President Jack Creswell said "Optimists bringing out the best in Kids – 10% and then some"

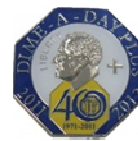
Barry E. Montague, Governor 2011-12

Poster Contest

"SAY NO TO DRUGS" is the theme for the District Anti-Drug Poster Contest. The judging of the posters will be held at the Spring Conference May 5th in Peoria. All information will be available at the October District Conference in Rockford, and at the February Winter Conference in Bloomington. Every Optimist Club will also receive the information by mail in January. The posters must be 14" by 22 inches horizontal on poster board. A \$20.00 entry fee must accompany each poster entered. Each Optimist Club may enter one boy's winning poster and one girl's winning poster from your Club contest. There is a separate division for boys and girls. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third winners in each division. Ribbons will be awarded to all entries. If you need additional information before you get the Anti-Drug contest packet please contact Vicki Helms by e-mail 4anvil@att.net, or call me at 618-233-8364.

Inside this issue:

Oratorical Contest	2
Optimist Rosters	3
District Essay Contest	3
Vice President Comments	4
IL District Deadlines	5
District Conference	6-7
Club News	8



Back Page!

Oratorical Contest 2012

“How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles”. This is the topic for the 2012 Oratorical Contest. I realize that it's only been six months since the last one, but it's time to start making plans on the club level for 2012. Many clubs have had successful contests in the past and many more clubs have the opportunity to do the same. Locating a contact person in your school system is a great way to get started.

Here are important dates for your calendar:

Club Contest - No later than March 2, 2012

Zone Contest - No later than March 26, 2012

Regional Contest -No later than April 16, 2012

District Contest – Saturday, May 5, 2012

Of course, all contests begin at the club level and progress through the Zone to the Regional and finally to the District. On the club level, there is no minimum number of contestants required to hold a contest. The Zone and Regional levels are different: To hold a Zone or Regional contest, there must be a minimum of three (3) contestants from either gender. For example: If there are only two boys, but there are three girls, both boys will advance to the Regional or District, and only the winner of the girls will advance. If there are only two boys and two girls, both boys and both girls will advance. **A \$25.00 entry fee is required to advance from the Club to the Zone contest.**

First and Second place boys and first and second place girls from each region will attend the District Contest. The rules have changed slightly this year in that the contestants must be under the age 18 as of December 31, 2011.

What's in it for the winners? The winner of each gender of the District Contest will be the recipient of a \$2,500.00 scholarship from Optimist International.

All of the above information can be obtained from OI by accessing the following website:

optimist.org/programs.

Please contact me anytime via email billmar444@aol.com or by calling 630-554-2798 or 630-347-2798 –Cell.

Bill Powell

District Chairperson

Half of Club Rosters Incomplete

After reviewing Illinois Optimist club rosters, past governor Marty Schmidt found that half of the club rosters have incomplete information. "There are two major problems with club rosters. No phone numbers and no email addresses." said Governor Schmidt. Club officers are not updating the club roster listed at 'Optimistleaders.org.

The process to add information at the web site is as easy as bringing up the club roster and follow the instructions on the screen. "I found some clubs who did not list any phone numbers for any of their members. Right now only half of the members in the district have an email addresses listed", said Schmidt.

By not having proper email addresses, half of our Illinois Optimist don't get the Land of Lincoln Bulletin, published quarterly.

The solution is easy:

1. Club presidents need to take responsibility for correct member data to be listed on the club roster.
2. Club Secretaries need to update all club roster listings with verified information and all that correct info needs to be entered at Optimistleaders.com.
3. Continued annual updates every October need to be done.

Now the immediate message is for all clubs to update club rosters. Only half of the clubs need to add email addresses. If you club has updated your roster, good job and keep up the good work.

District Essay Contest

I once again have the pleasure of serving as District Essay Chair for the 2011-2012 Optimist year. This year's theme is "**How my Positive Outlook Benefits my Community.**" Essays must be between 700-800 words, and complete rules plus a how to guide for club coordinators may be found at www.optimist.org.

Although this contest is often done by high school juniors and seniors, there is no reason why talented younger writers can't compete. Participation was light last year, and perhaps by marketing it to a younger crowd we can increase the number of entries.

All entries must be received by me no later than February 28th, 2012, and must include the birth certificate. I will accept emailed copies of these documents. Each club can submit one essay only, and the entry fee is \$25.00. There is no longer a cash prize for being the international winner, but the contestant receives a first place winner's plaque and recognition in The Optimist magazine.

If you are planning to participate, please let me know. It will give me an idea of how many essays I will receive, which helps the judges. Also, if you let me know how many total essays were judged at the club level, it is very much appreciated.

The essay contest is one of the longest running events in Optimist history. I hope to see every club participate this year and offer a local student the chance to win a \$2,500.00 scholarship.

The Des Plaines club will not conduct the at large contest this year. If no other club steps forward to run it, I'll attempt to find the club nearest to the potential entrant's residence, and see if they'll accept it. If they don't, the entry will not be accepted.

Chris Ladner

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847-867-0703 (C)

847-827-1444 (R)

197 N. Warrington Rd

Des Plaines IL 60016

*"How my Positive Outlook
Benefits my Community"*

Words from the Vice President

Greetings,

The first quarter of the 2011-2012 Optimist year has started, but the need to help children in the Illinois district continues. President, Jack Creswell, is encouraging all of us to give 100% and then some. The 100% is the baseline. The 'and then some' will truly make us successful.

In the month of October, clubs are encouraged to commit themselves to Optimism by recruiting one new Friend of Optimists or traditional member to their club. Clubs that achieve 100% retention +1 by October 31, 2011 will receive a special Club award and recognition.

Besides adding individual members to our clubs, taking Optimism to a new community is exciting! Just think if nobody came to "our" town, there would not be an Optimist Club. Optimist clubs can be organized with 15 members and membership will grow to 25 members.

I believe Optimist Clubs and members need to get outside of their comfort zone and challenge themselves in order to do what is most needed in our communities. Sometimes reaching out can take Members to places they never expected to go, but with it comes rewards they never thought possible.

I look forward to attending the first quarter conference in Rockford. If any member has a concern or question lets visit that weekend, or call me.

Yours In Optimism, Mary Ann Gilpin-Vice President

Mary Ann's Bio

Optimist Story:

Member Mid-Day Optimist Club, Marshall MO (1998) West Missouri District

2001-2002 Honor and Distinguished President, Life member

2002-Present Member of President's Club Optimist Foundation

2003-2004 Honor and Distinguished Secretary/Treasurer, Lt. Governor Honor and Distinguished, Builder of Excellence

2004-2005 Membership Chair, Finance Committee

2005-2006 Governor-Elect West Missouri

2006-2007 Governor West Missouri, Builder of Excellence (2) Certified Club Builder, Executive Director's Excellence in Leadership

2007-2008 Chair of the following: Policy, New club building, New club-follow up, Candidate Qualification, Builder of Excellence

2008-2009 Club Service and Tracking, Certified Club Trainer

2009-2010 Chair New Community Growth, Governor Advisor, Field Rep for new club building

2010-2011 Assistant to the Governor, Vice President Elect

Education: Bachelor of Science in Animal Science University of Missouri Columbia, MO

Occupation: Executive Director of Saline County United Way.

Community Service: Saline County Extension Council member and past president, personnel secretary for Miss Rodeo Iowa 2006

Hobbies: Quilting, fishing, spending time with family in Iowa

Illinois District Report and Deadline Schedule

		CLUB	LT. GOV
2011			
Nov. 4 - 5	Fall District Conference – Rockford, IL	X	X
Oct	District and International Dues due	X	
Nov 15	ACPC Reports Due		X
Dec. 1	Deadline for 2nd quarter Bulletin submissions	X	X
Dec. 31	1st Quarter Zone Meeting reports due		X
2012			
Feb 10-11	Winter District Conference – Bloomington, IL	X	X
Jan	International Dues due	X	
Feb. 15	Form 990 to IRS if required (check gross income)	X	
Feb. 28	Deadline to Submit Essays to District Chairperson	X	
Mar. 1	Deadline for 3rd quarter Bulletin submissions	X	X
Mar. 5	Club Oratorical Contests complete	X	
Mar. 5	Club CCDHH Contests complete	X	
Mar. 26	Zone Oratorical Contest complete		X
Mar. 26	Zone CCDHH Contests complete		X
Mar. 31	2nd Quarter Zone Meeting Reports due		X
Apr. 16	Regional Oratorical Contests complete		
Apr. 16	Regional CCDHH Contests complete		
Apr. 30	District Oratorical Contest		
Apr. 30	District CCDHH Contest	X	X
April	Poster Contest Entries due at Conference		
Apr. 29-30	District and International Dues due		
May	Spring District Conference - Peoria	X	X
May 20	Officer-Elect Report due to Optimist International	X	
May 20	Deadline for 4th quarter Bulletin submissions	X	
June 8	Lt. Gov. Club Visitation Reports due		X
June 14-16	Illinois District OIJGC Tournament	X	X
June 30	3rd Quarter Zone Meeting Reports due		X
July 12-14	Optimist International Convention – Milwaukee	X	X
July 6	Camp Coco	X	X
July	International Dues due	X	X
Aug 10-12	District Convention – Decatur	X	X
Sep 30	Optimist International Foundation donations due	X	X
Sep 30	President’s Pride Report due	X	X
Sep 30	4th Quarter Zone Meeting Reports due	X	X

Illinois District First Quarter Conference

Illinois District First Quarter Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 4-5, 2011

Rockford, Illinois

Hotel Reservations directly to:

Deadline: October 28, 2011

Cliffbreakers Riverside Resort and

Lexington Hotel

Room Rate: \$65.00 + taxes

700 West Riverside Blvd.

Rockford, IL 61103

815-282-3033

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BELOW

Name _____ Office/position _____

OptimistClub _____ Zone _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Member _____ Spouse _____ Guest _____

Member Registration # _____ @\$10.00 \$ _____

Breakfast and lunch # _____ @\$28.00 \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Breakfast Menu

Lunch Menu

Scrambled eggs

Turkey on Hoagie rolls

Eggs Benedict

Lettuce, tomato, mayo on side

Bacon and Sausage

Fresh fruit and chef side

Chef's potatoes

Assorted Pastries and muffins

Breakfast buffet will start at 7:00 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m., both in the Parkview 3.

All meeting will be held in the Parkview room 1&2, on the ground level.

Please send this form check(s) payable to Illinois District – Optimist International
c/o Judy Ladner, Dist. Secretary Treasurer
197 N. Warrington Road
Des Plaines, Il. 60016
Phone: (847) 827-1444

Illinois District Conference Agenda

Illinois District Fall Conference Agenda
Cliffbreakers, Rockford



Friday, November 4th, 2011

6:00-8:00	Registration
9:00-10:00	Illinois District Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, November 5th, 2011

8:00-9:00 AM	Past Governor Meeting
9:00-10:00	General Session
10:15-11:00	Mary Ann on Honor Program, Program updates
11:15-12:30	Chris Ladner on Promotions
12:30-2:30	Lunch, Foundation Auction

Oak Park Club News

Bulletin Editor

Tina Conley
superbowlbride@gmail.com

The Oak Park Youth Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, Nov. 15th, 2011**. That may seem far away, however, Al Hippensteel and Pat Leavy are already preparing the menu and sending out letters to area school principals. Last year, they honored 22 students from 22 grade schools, middle schools and the three high schools. This project was started in 1986 and has grown substantially since.

Oswegoland Club News

The Oswegoland Optimist Club has been doing great things for the kids in our community since 1977. With over 100 members, we are never short of new ideas and helping hands. But living in one of the fastest growing counties in America, our club still struggles to be a household name. That all changed last year when the club tried out a new event, Pumpkin Races! The pumpkin race is a simple concept. Take a carved pumpkin, insert 2 independent axles through the pumpkin and attach wheels. Decorate it in Halloween style and race your pumpkin down a hill to victory!! This is great family fun, competing with friends, neighbors, classmates, and business competitors! Winning pumpkins in each race advance to the GRAND Championship!

Participants are encouraged to follow the "Official Rules" so their pumpkin racer is not disqualified as a CHEATER PUMPKIN. Cheaters never prosper and are subject to PUBLIC DESTRUCTION! The club enlists the help of the local police department to arrest and smash cheater pumpkins with a giant mallet, while the crowd screams with excitement.

Last year, the club raised over \$500 and had roughly 400 people at the race. This year, we are on track to raise over \$4,000 and expect a crowd closer to 1000!

But the best news is the excitement in the community! Everyone knows about the races and the Optimist Club. We've gotten many new members, people wanting to be a part of this great thing called "The Optimist Club."





OI Foundation News

Fall brings to mind...falling leaves, yummy treats from the kitchen, and the Illinois Optimist silent auction for the Optimist International Foundation! Let's plan to have a huge "Optimist Bake Sale" for our auction at the November conference in Rockford and start the year off with a bang. Bring your best cookies, brownies, pies, breads...you get the idea – and come prepared to take home yummy treats to share with your family and friends.

This year, the Optimist International Foundation is celebrating 40 years of financial support for the Optimist International scholarship programs and other programs of our great organization. I like to invite each of you to be part of that celebration and to help the Illinois Optimists raise the most money we've ever raised for the Optimist International Foundation. Our goal for the year is \$15,900, and I know that together we can make that happen!!

Here's how you can be part of the fun:

The Foundation has announced the newest pin in its collection, the *Dime-A-Day PLUS pin*. This special edition pin will be replacing the basic *Dime-A-Day pin* for this year only and is available to Optimist members with a \$40 contribution... simply a dime a day, plus, for a year!

In honor of the 40th Anniversary Celebration, the Foundation is offering a special gift to all donors at the \$100 level - an OIF 40th Anniversary value card. Value cards have discounts for food, lodging, services, and products at varying locations nationwide. Optimist International Foundation provides this gift to \$100 donors as a special thank you for supporting us these past 40 years!

Also during the 2011-2012 Optimist year, the Foundation is seeking unrestricted **\$400 gifts** from individuals and Clubs. Individuals donating \$400 will receive a collectable 40th anniversary paperweight prism. For Clubs, any Club that donates \$400 will receive a 40th anniversary banner patch (this replaces the Dollar-a-Day patch for this year only).

One of the most exciting ways to celebrate this new Optimist year is through the ***Fabulous at Forty*** parties! Each District is challenged to raise at least \$4,000 unrestricted for the Foundation by hosting a series of anniversary parties and inviting both Optimists and non-Optimists alike! These themed celebrations are funded by the host, and all attendees are asked to purchase a ticket to the event. All participants attending the party will receive an Optimist International Foundation 40th Anniversary value card as a token of appreciation! It's a great way to get people together to have fun, spread the word about Optimism, and toast to 40 years for the Foundation! For more information, please contact the Foundation at 1-800-500-8130 or your DFR at 309-236-1342.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Optimist International Foundation! Preliminary results from last year indicate that we were on target to meet our fund-raising goal for the year (\$15,150) and beat our all time best per member contribution by more than 50 cents per member. Final results will be reported in the next issue of this newsletter.

If you have questions or want additional information, please contact me - your District Foundation Rep – Sandi Schmidt at schmidtsandi@gmail.com or 309-236-1342.

