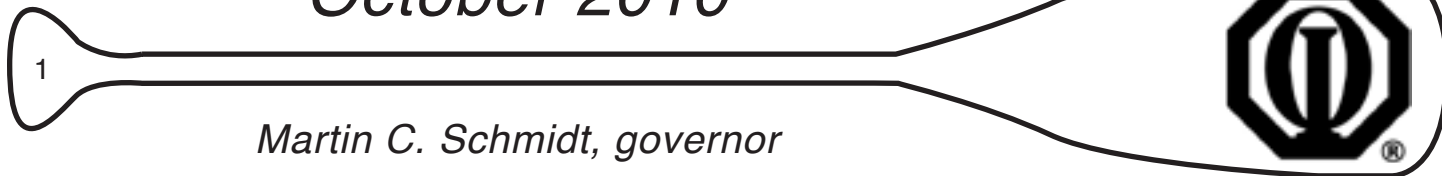


Illinois District Bulletin

October 2010



Martin C. Schmidt, governor

Governor's message

Imagine you are in a canoe. The front paddler pulls on the right side, the canoe goes left. If the paddler keeps on pulling the canoe will go in a circle, not the way to get where you're going. When the back paddler begins to pull on the left side, the canoe starts going straight. Optimist Clubs are just like canoes. If you don't work together, you end up going in circles.

The Illinois District crew would like to paddle in your club's canoe. Our theme this year is "BRING THE DISTRICT TO THE CLUBS." It is my hope that we can promote clubs and Optimist programs.

Just like when you go canoeing, you need a boat, paddles,

and water. In my opinion all good Optimist clubs need to have three outcomes:

- Valuable & Substantial Kids Projects
- Strong fellowship & fun for our members
- Just enough fund raising for what you need.

The Illinois District crew wants to help your club have a successful year. We plan to offer the following:

- Lt. Governors that are a resource to your club crew
- Well run youth contests, and projects
- Quarterly meetings that are productive, entertaining, fun and not too long.



Give my crew a chance to get in your canoe. Let's get all Illinois Optimist members "PULLING FOR THE KIDS!"

Optimistically yours,
Martin C. Schmidt, governor

2010-2011 Schedule

1st Quarter — Oct. 22-23, 2010
Ramada in Fairview Heights, IL

2nd Quarter — Jan. 21-22, 2011
Holiday Inn in Rock Falls, IL

3rd Quarter — April 29-30, 2011
The Grand Hotel in Peoria, IL

Int'l Convention — July 3-5, 2011
Baltimore, MD

4th Quarter — Aug. 5-7, 2011
Eastland Suites in Urbana, IL

Conference and convention news

District Conferences

For our District Conferences in the first three quarters, we will have a hospitality room on Friday night and meetings all day on Saturday. There will not be a Saturday night dinner scheduled for these three meetings. Plans for youth and spouse programs are being worked on for each of these Conferences.

Plans are underway for the District Convention, including a golf tournament on Friday, meetings and training Saturday all day

(and maybe Friday night), hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights, youth and spouse activities, memorial service, and Governor's Banquet on Saturday night.

International Convention

At the International Convention in Baltimore, we are planning to hold our District Dinner the same night as the President's Dinner. With the shorter Convention schedule, this is our best scheduling opportunity for our dinner. Please keep this in mind when you are registering for the International Convention.



Message from the governor-elect

As I begin my year as Governor-Elect I look forward to a very successful two years; my first year as Governor-Elect working with Governor Marty and as Governor the following year. My plan is to accomplish many goals. I intend to visit as many clubs through-out the state as possible. Thanks to the new club in Marissa we not only have a new club but 26 new Optimists; I hope this year we can continue the forward movement with new clubs and members being added. Just think if each

member brought one new member to their club what a year we would have. Remember our mission statement "Optimists bring out the best in kids", but without Optimists where would the kids be.

I will be going to St. Louis in March and looking forward to their program for governor training. I hope to bring back ideas which we can use as we move forward.

Sincerely,
Barry E. Montague
Governor-Elect District 12



Mudfest in Deerfield

For almost 20 years, the Deerfield Optimists together with the park district have an event in early September called Mudfest. High school students form co-ed teams and have a volleyball tournament in courts filled with mud. They then have a tug-of-war in the mud and then a pie eating contest (real pie, no mud). The Optimists provide the referees and serve free popcorn and pizza. Everyone has lots of fun.

Oratorical contest

Ever since 1928, Optimist International has been sponsoring Oratorical contests. The topic for this year's contest is "If I Were Leader of the Free World, the First Issue I Would Address Would be..."

Now is the time for your club to begin preparation for your 2011 contest. The winners of the Club Contest will advance to the Zone Contest. The winners from the Zone will advance to the Regional. Regional winners move on to the District Contest that will take place on Saturday April 30, 2011.

These are the dates to remember:

- Club Contest to be completed no later than March 5th, 2011
- Zone Contest to be completed no later than March 26th
- Regional Contest to be completed no later than April 16th
- District Contest: April 30, 2011

What's in it for the winners? Each boy and girl first place winner of the District Contest will receive a \$2,500 scholarship payable to the college of their choice.

No need to wait. Get started now with your contest preparations. If your club hasn't already, select a Club Oratorical Chairperson and access www.optimist.org/publications for all of the information you will need to get started.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for more information or with any questions that you may have. More discussion is forthcoming, and more information will be available at our October 30th meeting in Fairview Heights.

Hope to see you then,
Bill Powell
District Oratorical Chairperson
billmar444@aol.com
630-554-2798 - home
630-347-2798 - cell



Foundation messages

All aboard for Foundation fun!

All aboard!!! When you hear that call, you know it's time to get on the train because it's going to start moving. This year, we're using a train theme for the Optimist International Foundation, and this is your invitation to climb aboard.

As a District, we've set a goal of \$15,150 to be raised for the Foundation this year. It doesn't take much from any individual member or club to meet the goal – an unrestricted gift of about \$275 per club would exceed our goal for the year.

To help us meet the goal we'll be doing some fun fundraising projects throughout the year, and I encourage each of you to be part of them. We'll be holding our traditional silent auction and live auction at each District Conference. Come prepared to join in the fun and bid on your favorite items. Donations from clubs and individuals are welcome. HINT: cookies and other baked goods are always good sellers.

We're going to be trying some new ideas as well, but right now they're a big secret. Be sure to show up at District Conferences so you don't miss any of the fun!

1st qtr. Dime A Day promotion

Governor Marty is committed to helping you help the Optimist International Foundation, so he's offering a special Dime A Day incentive for our first quarter District Conference. For this meeting only, your



Belleville's Corky Helms helps raise money for the Foundation as an auctioneer.

\$10 registration fee will be applied to your Dime A Day membership. Just choose the "Dime A Day-1st Quarter Promotion" on your registration form, and send the additional \$26.50 when you register for the District Conference. That will make you a Dime A Day member right away.

You can also become a Dime A Day member by making your \$36.50 donation online at <http://oifoundation.org/donorlink.htm>.

Don't forget – every Dime A Day member earns a distinctive pin to wear with pride through the year, making everyone aware that you are part of this elite group.

A big thank you to loyal Foundation supporters!

A special thank you goes out to all Optimist members and clubs who have supported the Foundation this year. Because of your generous support, the Foundation is able to continue all the good work it does.

I'd like to especially thank those members who are members of the Presidents Club – these are people who donate \$250 or more per year, providing ongoing support

for the foundation with each year's renewal donation: Dave Emerick (new this year), Connie & Jerry Emery, Corky & Vicki Helms, Marilyn & Mike Koenig, Dave Liesse, Marty & Sandi Schmidt, and Lois Stroh. These are the members who'd made their Presidents Club donation by August 31. There's still time for you to join this group, so please call me if you have questions about how to become a Presidents Club member.

Several clubs have made Dollar A Day (or more) donations so far this year: Des Plaines, Freeburg, Highland, Milan, Oswegoland, and Silvis. This was the list as of August 31, and I'm hoping that many more clubs have joined this list and earned their racing patch by the end of the Optimist year on September 30.

Every gift is important to the work the Foundation does for kids! Thank you for your part in the Foundation's success!

Sandi Schmidt
District Foundation Representative
SchmidtSandraJ@JohnDeere.com
309.792.1485 (home)
309.236.1342 (cell)



2011 poster contest: "Kids living drug free"

The Illinois District Anti-Drug poster contest will be open to boys and girls in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. Winning posters will be judged at the third District meeting. There will be separate divisions for girls and boys. Each division will have three winners. First place winners will receive a \$100.00 check, second place a \$75.00 check and third place a \$50.00 check.

A \$20.00 ENTRY FEE paid by the sponsoring Optimist Club

must accompany each poster entered for judging. Students are permitted to enter ONLY ONE Optimist Club's Poster Contest and posters must be ORIGINAL masterpieces, not past contest entries.

All information, including entry form and information sheet, will be available at the October Conference at Fairview Heights Ramada Inn on October 23, 2010. All information will also be given to the Lt. Governor's to be passed on to the Clubs in their

zone. I will send information to all IL District Clubs in November. Clubs may choose to hold the Poster Contest early in 2011 when the children are not as involved in state testing and outside school activities.

Bring your winning girl and boy entry for the Anti-Drug Poster Contest to the April District Conference, or send it with your Lt. Governor for judging. This is a great chance for Optimist Clubs to "BRING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS."

Vicki Helms
618-233-8364; 4anvil@att.net

Essay contest

The theme of the 2010-11 Optimist International Essay Contest is "My Education Is Important To Me Because..."

There have been two important changes to the contest this year. There is no longer an international monetary award, and the length has been increased to between 700-

800 words. Each district will award a single \$2,500.00 scholarship to the winner in this combined gender event.

The Optimist Club of Des Plaines will accept essays from areas in which the local club does not participate or this is no club. However, every club is urged to be a part of the contest.

Information for clubs plan-

ning an essay contest can be found at optimist.org. All essays must be in the hands of the district chair by February 28th, 2011, and the entry fee of \$25.00, which is paid by the sponsoring club, must be included. Each club may submit only one essay.

The mailing address is:

Chris Ladner
197 N. Warrington Rd
Des Plaines IL 60016

Update from Sterling

The Sterling Optimist Club hosted the 4th quarter Zone 3 Meeting Sept. 9. Among those at this well attended event were newly-elected Optimist Governor Marty Schmidt, past governor Jerry Emery, newly-elected Governor-Elect Barry Montague and representatives from the Rock Falls and Princeton clubs. We have recently elected our new board and were privileged to have new Governor Marty Schmidt induct our new board while he was at the zone meeting. New board members are: President, Wayne Gann, Secretary,

Mark Sedig and Treasurer Kevin Whitehouse. We wish them the best of luck in the coming year and have much confidence in them.

This past year the Sterling club has been active; sponsoring our oratorical contest, our poster contest in which our local winner went to district and won first place and our Junior Golf Tournament, where our local girl winner went on to take first in the state tournament.

In July our club held a Bucket Brigade, which raised \$2995 for our Sauk Valley Junior College scholarship fund. Our local park district holds a Pumpkin Dash in Octo-

ber. This is a huge community event for in which kids from 2-16 years of age participate in races. There is also a petting zoo, face painting, train rides and a carnival atmosphere. Our Sterling Optimist Club provides the race participants with free hot dogs, chips and pop. We also sell hot dogs, brats and chops to raise money for our club. Our hard working fundraiser chairman Joe Martin has already provided club members with raffle tickets to sell for our upcoming 12 Days of Christmas raffle in December. Submitted by Richard Schuneman, Sterling Optimist President



Illinois District First Quarter Conference
 Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, 2010
 Ramada Fairview Heights



Make your hotel reservations directly to: Ramada Fairview Heights (618) 632-4747 6900 North Illinois Street Fairview Heights, IL 62208	DEADLINE: October 8, 2010 Room Rate: \$64.00 for single or double room Includes breakfast buffet: cereals, breakfast breads, biscuits & gravy, hard boiled eggs, fruit
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Pre-register below for the 1st Quarter District Conference
NO PHONE RESERVATIONS PLEASE

Name: _____ Office/Position: _____
 Optimist Club: _____ Zone: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ (check 1) Member: ___ Spouse: ___ Guest: ___
 Office/Position: _____
 Optimist Club: _____ Zone: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Optimist Member Registration	# _____	@\$10.00	\$ _____
Dime A Day-1 st Quarter Promotion <small>For this meeting only - registration will be applied to Dime A Day membership for 2010-11</small>	# _____	@\$26.50	\$ _____
Past Governor's Breakfast <small>Breakfast from hotel buffet</small>	# _____	@\$ 0.00	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Saturday Luncheon <small>Italian Buffet-Italian Salad, Garlic Chicken Penne in Alfredo Sauce, Chicken Parmesan, Vegetable, Garlic Roasted Potatoes, Garlic Breadstick, Coffee, Tea, Texas Sheet Cake</small>	# _____	@\$17.50	\$ _____
Total Amount			\$ _____

Children's Program 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Please list names and ages
 Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
 Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
(If more than two children are attending conference, please attach separate list of names and ages.)

Send the above form with your check(s) made payable to: Illinois District - Optimist International
 c/o Judy Ladner, District Secretary-Treasurer
 197 N. Warrington Road
 Des Plaines, IL 60016
 Phone: (847) 827-1444