



**OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**

Buckeye Bulletin

Winter Issue 2

The Great Ohio District

January 2010

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From the desk of Governor Judy

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Mission Statement

By providing hope and a positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in children

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.

Dear Optimists,

A new decade is upon us, filled with more opportunity to fulfill the needs of our youth. I just returned from Governor's training in sunny but COLD Florida. History was made while we were there. One of the hotel staff was extremely excited that he had ice on his windshield for the first time in his life. More importantly this was the first time ever that Optimist International combined training of the Governor's with the Governor Elects. President Mark Shriver's message stresses urgency and accountability. Urgency to continue growing the organization NOW and accountability because every one of us is responsible. Those present responded to his call by pledging to build 125 new clubs by the International Convention in July 2010. I pledged to build at least two more clubs in Ohio by that time, but I cannot do it alone.

Presidents and Lt. Governors I need your help. If you plan to build a club please let me know. Remember if you wish to be Distinguished this is one of the requirements, I also recommitted myself to our goal of adding 600 new members before September 30, 2010. To be successful will require four key ingredients **VISION, COURAGE, ENTHUSIASM, and DISCIPLINE**. To hear more, please plan to attend the 2nd District Conference on February 12 and 13th. We will have an internationally known motivational speaker, Michael Angelo Caruso, who will talk with us about leadership. Mr. Caruso is an Optimist himself and understands the challenges our organization faces. Look for special announcements about this soon.

Governor Elect, Chuck Davis will present the "Catch A Rising Star Workshop" and Past Governor Dr. Denny Morris will host the 2008-09 Awards Banquet. We will be visited by Sandi Larivee, our VP from 2008-09, who will officially recognize Denny for his achievements as Governor (Rumor is he will receive his ring)! We will also welcome the President, Essex Phillips, and Treasurer, Angel Heath, of the new Wesmont Optimist Club.

On another note, I was extremely proud that the Great Ohio District was recognized at the Florida training for having the best Optimist International Junior Golf Competition. Bill Brewer has the lead in this effort, but his entire team deserves our thanks! Spread the word.

The first quarter is now past let's all commit ourselves again to achieve the goals we set as Optimists for the 2009-10 Optimist year. If I can assist in any way please send me an email or call me, we're on this path together Helping Kids Soar!

Governor Judy

OHIO DISTRICT DATES 2009-10

October 16 & 17, 2009— Ohio District Conference
 February 12 & 13, 2010—Ohio District Conference
 May 14 & 15, 2010 —Ohio District Conference
 July 8-10, 2010 —Optimist International Convention in Denver, CO
 August 19, 20 & 21, 2010 - 62nd Ohio District Convention, in Dayton, Ohio

OHIO DISTRICT OFFICERS 2009-10

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Please plan to join your fellow Ohio Optimists for our annual **Awards Banquet** On Saturday, February 13, 2010 at our 2nd Quarter District Conference. Past International Vice President Sandy Larivee and her husband Ron will be present to help all of us celebrate the second consecutive year of being a Distinguished District. Numerous club awards will be distributed as well as recognition of the 2008-2009 leadership team.

You won't want to miss it!!!

Denny Morris , Immediate Past Governor

Message From The Governor-Elect

To Club Presidents or Officers:

One of the functions the Ohio District is to develop people to take leadership roles in our clubs and district. Identifying and preparing these members for leadership positions is critical to maintaining a vibrant, growing organization dedicated to serving out youth.

At the 2nd Quarter District Meeting being held Feb. 12th and 13th in Columbus,. I will be conducting a **"Future Leaders" workshop "To Catch a Rising Star"**.

I am asking you to suggest the name or names of a few members in your clubs that might benefit from this session. These should members not currently in leadership roles, but who have expressed an interest or someone you feel may have an interest in accepting these roles.

I will personally invite them to come if you provide me with their names. The District Leadership team and I have asked some of the finest leaders in our district to assist us in the presentation of this workshop.

Either call me at 614-207-7841 or send me an email at chuckdavis1953@yahoo.com to give me the names of your members. If you have any questions please call me at 614-207-7841.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Optimistically,
Chuck Davis
Governor Elect
The Great Ohio District



Come Soar With Me



For Every Member You Bring In Beginning October 1, 2009,
You get a chance for a FREE Runway Flight on a Replica of
the Historic Wright "B" Flyer

(Up to a maximum of 10 changes)

Drawing to be Held at the Ohio District Optimist Convention in August

For Further Information Contact Me At: judith.martinson@sbcglobal.net

Start Today By Just Asking someone to become an Optimist!

Governor Judy

To my Optimist friends,

As your Ohio District Chaplin, one of my responsibilities is to conduct a Memorial Service at the Annual District Convention. We take time to honor all of our Optimist members who have passed away during the year from our last Convention in Lima last August, 2009, till this year's Convention in Dayton, scheduled for August 19, 20 and 21, 2010.

I need your help!

As there is no updated list from Optimist International of deceased members, I must depend on your club to notify me when a member passes on. You can contact me by phone, mail or e-mail. My home phone # is 513 539-9325, my cell phone is 513 600-3528 or my home address is 389 Timrick Place, Monroe, Ohio or my e-mail address is dbasford@cinci.rr.com. It would be great, if you could, give me their full name, name of their club, date they joined, and if possible, their picture. If you, as an Optimist member, has lost a loved one, father, mother, brother, sister, etc, please let me know.

We Need To Remember Them!

These members, young or old, have dedicated their time, ideas, effort, dues, etc, to support this great service organization, "Optimist International". They have served the youth and their communities with faithful and devoted service.

Yours in Optimism,
Darrel F. Basford, Ohio District Chaplin



IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING MEETINGS

The following is a breakdown of why members should attend Club, Zone, District meetings.

Club Meetings

Being involved in an Optimist club has many rewards. You will build friendships, refine personal leadership skills, expand social and business circles and develop optimism as a way of life. You will also know that **YOU** have made a difference in the lives of many children. **THIS** is a feeling no words can describe.

By attending your club meetings on a regular basis, you are showing support to the President, to the members, to the Program chair and the speakers. Nothing is more embarrassing than to have a great speaker and only a handful of members in attendance. The speakers take the time to come to our meetings; we should take the time to attend.

I know every one is busy. Even though I do not work outside of the home, I do have a home based business and I am very involved with optimism. Bill and I travel all over the district attending meetings, giving presentations, being a motivational speaker, offering support in any way we can. If you mark the weekly meetings on your calendar, maybe you can come to a meeting or two or more each month. Everyone is important and we do miss you when you are not here.

Zone Meetings

The purpose of Zone meetings is to open communications to the Clubs within the Zone, to share information between clubs and zone, to coordinate joint club ventures, to promote Optimist International programs, to offer fellowship and to provide on going motivation and training.

It is required that club Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers attend Zone meetings. Often speakers at a Zone meeting are from the District, offering important information on required service projects; it is a good idea to have Committee chairpersons attend as well. A Zone meeting is an open meeting and an additional way

for a member to find out information, take advantage of training and learn more about the operations of other optimist clubs. We encourage all members to attend. You meet other optimists and you exchange ideas. Some zones have their Zone Meetings as social events. Their spouses/partners/friends attend as well as most members. Zone meetings are held four times a year and are usually hosted by one of the clubs in your zone.

District Meetings

District meetings are held every quarter in the Columbus area. The fourth quarter is a convention held in a different location each year.

District meetings are much like zone meetings. You renew old friendships, you meet new optimists from all over the state, and you have the chance to attend training workshops that are usually not offered at Zone meetings. At most conferences, we have a representative from OI. It can be the President or Vice President or a motivational speaker. These are not just for the officers and board members **but for all members**. All members are encouraged to attend.

If you do not want to stay the night, the meetings usually start promptly at 9 am and training is over by 4:00 pm.

1st Quarter District Conference – we usually have an OI Rep with us and a special dinner on Saturday.

2nd Quarter District Conference – The Awards Banquet is held on Saturday evening.

3rd Quarter Conference – The Essay winner reads his/her winning Essay **PLUS** the Oratorical contest is held. A special theme dinner is held.

After the District Call is received, the President should share the important information as to where and how to register for the next District Conference.

The District meeting dates are available at the 3rd Quarter District meeting for the following optimistic year. They are printed in the Handbook and/or on the web site which will be available at the First Quarter Conference in October and also in the District calendar.

District Convention

The District conventions are open to all members and guests. You do not have to be an officer and/or officer-elect to attend. We have many activities for all. At the conventions you will make new friends, hear from old friends, other optimists, and enjoy meetings, trainings, fun and fellowship. When we know in advance, activities are planned for the children. They will be supervised by responsible adults.

Thank you for all you do for the youth of the community!

Sharon M. O'Neil,
Past Ohio District Governor
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Mission Statement: **By providing hope, and positive vision, optimists bring out the best in children!**

Reminder: The **International Convention** will be in Denver, CO on July 8-10. It will only be 3 days this year, all the registration info is on the OI website and I will have information at the February meeting.

Denny Morris, International Ambassador



CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN

Childhood cancer treatment has been called the “modern medical miracle” due to the remarkable progress made in curing infants, children, teens, and young adults with cancer;

Up to 70% of all childhood cancer can now be cured. Childhood leukemia now has an 80% survival rate. The childhood cancer death rate has dropped more dramatically for children than for any other age group. This is due solely to **coordinated research!**

Let's continue to raise these statistics by doing our share with donations to OI-CCC program. You may also help by many projects supporting your local community. It's not too early to start planning a fund-raiser for **June - CCC Awareness Month.**

A Matching Grant program through Optimist International is now available! It requires pre-approval of your project with OI and some paperwork, but it will **DOUBLE** your efforts! Info on this program is available at www.Optimist.org - click on members, then programs, then CCC.

Providing the Care.....Finding the Cure

Sally Schmidt

CCC Chair – Ohio District



AROUND THE DISTRICT

TRYING TO BRING MY ZONE TOGETHER

By Pete Gabriel, Lt. Governor Zone 5, Ohio District

Optimist Zone 5 of the Great Ohio District is not unlike any other zone in Optimist International. Seven clubs of various sizes trying to serve the youth of their communities. Austintown with 37, Boardman 21, Brookfield 19, Hartford 33, Hubbard 30, New Middletown-Springfield Township 7, and Youngstown East Suburban with 15 members. Clubs, that are mostly located in medium to small communities.

As the Zone 5 Lt. Governor I invited the Presidents of each club to join me for pizza and refreshments at a local restaurant on the first Saturday afternoon of 2010. No structure or gavel, just a friendly gab session. With the exception of my club's president who had to work, all or them were there and joined in the opportunity to meet each other on a personal basis and to discuss their concerns and exchange a variety of information.

Probably the biggest concern in all of OI is the recent dues increase. What increased services are the local clubs getting in return? A pretty hard question to answer since one of our clubs discovered that the insurance policy provided as part of our dues does not cover medical expenses. The family of a youngster injured at one of the club's events was denied coverage by OI's insurance carrier because OI insurance only covers liability. As I understand it, this protects your club and your members from being sued. You are urged to read the "Summary of Insurance" and especially the "Major Exclusions to General Liability" clause which includes "Medical Payments" plus a lot more. By the way, the family used their own insurance policy with a \$2,000.00 deductible that they paid rather than sue the Optimist Club.

So, what about those dues? The Hartford Optimist offer a participation plan to help ease their members dues woes. In brief, they earn hourly credits for participating in projects. The hourly requirement prevents anyone from signing in and leaving 10 minutes later and qualifying for the same credits as a member working for 8 hours. The Boardman Optimist are looking into the idea to help spur on their members participation.

Another topic that we all are concerned about is the "aging" of Optimist members. Of the seven club officers at the table, only one was under the age of 40. I'm sure we all understand that if we don't successfully recruit younger members, our organization and other organizations like ours, we are doomed. Ask your members to talk to young people about their willingness, or lack of, to volunteer their time to clubs like ours. Why not and what can we do to change and advance into the second decade of the 21st Century.

As part of that effort to bring our clubs into 2010, I am creating a Zone 5 Web Site with each club having their own page. All the Zone members and the public as well will have access.

The pizza was good. The refreshments were appreciated. How did the overall meeting go? It was suggested by one, and all the presidents agreed, that we should get together again under the same format in three months.

As we wrapped up our two hour gab session, we decided to look into a Zone 5 Summer Excursion on one of Pittsburgh's Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruises. Here's another opportunity to get to know each other better.

If the Great Ohio District ever wonders about Optimist Leadership, they'll find it flourishes in Zone 5 with Lynn Larson, Austintown; Chuck Hillman, Boardman; Dan Faustino, Brookfield; Tom Maker, Youngstown East Suburban; Ed Newton, Hartford; Dom Lentini, Hubbard and Ralph "Jim" Heaven, New Middletown-Springfield Township.

Pete Gabriel

Lt. Governor

Zone 5 Great Ohio District

peter.gabriel@yahoo.com

WHAT IS A FOO ? If you can't answer this, you have to go back to "Optimism 101".

A FOO is a **Friend of Optimists**. Any man or woman can become a "Friend Of Optimists" if they show support for your clubs projects for the youth in your area. They could be a person who does not want to be a regular member of your club, but is interested in "BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS". You could honor a local community leader with a Friend of Optimism. The cost is \$100.00, sent with the application to Optimist International. A portion of this fee will be returned to the club or Ohio District.

NEXT QUESTION - do you have an application? If you do, use it. If not go to "optimistleaders.org". This web site will lead you to a form you can print. Get busy because Governor Judy will expect every Club and District Officer to sponsor at least one FOO !

I sponsored my FOO in November. If I can do this, any Optimist can do it !

Bill Gum - Assistant to the Governor

Help! Help! Help!

The Lima Shawnee Optimist Club is asking other clubs if they have any extra medallions and would be willing to sell them to the Shawnee Optimist.

One (1) 1st Place Gold Essay Medallion

Two (2) 3rd Place Bronze Oratorical Medallion

Please contact Kathy Byrne, President Lima Shawnee Optimist

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