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# BUCKEYE BULLETIN

**From the desk of Governor Dennis Morris, D.P.M.:**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope each of you had a very enjoyable holiday season. We are now entering the second quarter of this optimist year. Unfortunately, the Ohio District is -8 in membership. In addition, the Helping Hands club in Napoleon has disbanded. As you can see, we need to continue inviting friends and acquaintances to become Optimists. Many clubs will now be preparing for their oratorical and essay contests. This is a great way to interact with some of our local youth.

I would also appreciate if the club treasurers would check for outstanding dues balances to OI. We currently have 13 clubs that are more than 90 days delinquent. Thanks for your attention to these matters!

We are getting ready for the **Second Quarter District Conference, February 6th and 7th** in Columbus at the Ramada Plaza. (I-71 – Exit 116) This conference will bring new activities and informative sessions including a “Catch a Rising Star” presentation by Gov. Elect Judy Martinson. Once again, this is a conference you do not want to miss! In the evening we will have Immediate Past Governor Sharon O’Neil’s Award Banquet. Please be sure to register **NOW** for this conference as registering on site does not guarantee a meal. We need to give meal counts to the hotel on Tuesday of that week. .

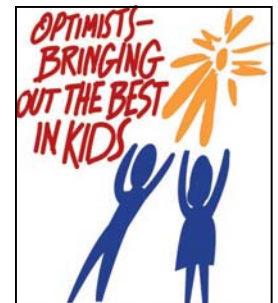
Let’s all work to make 2009 an “O-HI5-O” year for the kids!

### 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.



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## OHIO DISTRICT DATES

### 2009

#### **February 6 & 7—2nd Quarter Conference, Columbus, OH**

Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, I-71 Exit 116, 4900 Sinclair Rd., Columbus, OH

#### **March 6, 2009—JOOI District Conference**

**March 7, 2009**—Poelking Wilmington Lanes, 1403 Wilmington Ave., Dayton, OH 45420

#### **May 15 & 16—3rd Quarter Conference, Columbus, OH**

Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, I-71 Exit 116, 4900 Sinclair Rd., Columbus, OH

#### **July 8-11—Optimist International Convention, Kissimmee, FL**

Gaylord Palms, Kissimmee, FL

#### **August 14 & 15—61st Ohio District Convention, Lima, OH**

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#### • **Future Optimist International Conventions**

• **2010—July 7-10—Denver, CO**

• **2011—July 3-6—Baltimore, MD**

• **2012—July 11-14—Milwaukee, WI**

• **2013—July 3-6—Cincinnati, OH**



Give Me "Five" for the Kids  
Donne-m'en « cinq » pour les enfants  
2008-2009

"Any clubs that need info on having an Oratorical contest call me ASAP. Most clubs will be having their club contest in February. Go online to [Optimist.org](http://Optimist.org) for more information.

If you have any questions contact me at [jstahley@aol.com](mailto:jstahley@aol.com). or 937-604-9921



**Jerry Stahley, District Oratorical Chair**

## LEADERSHIP

"An effective organization has a purpose that is shared by all its members and to which they will willingly commit their efforts. People working together can do almost anything."

*James L. Hayes*

"A good leader takes a little more than his share of the blame, a little less than his share of the credit."

*Arnold Glasow*

"Leadership: The art of getting someone else to do something that you want done because he wants to do it."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*



Are you interested or do you know someone who is interested in being a Lt. Governor for 2009-2010? If your answer is "YES, please contact your current Lt. Governor, Governor-Elect Judy Martinson or myself. We will make sure you receive the necessary forms and information.

**Governor Dennis Morris, DPM**

# DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

I will be accepting checks and/or cash at the District Conference for the benefit of the District Scholarship Fund. Club, Corporate and/or personal checks are to be made out to: The Ohio District Scholarship Fund.

Thank you in advance for your support of our kids.

**Bill O'Neil**

**330-722-7071**

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**The Personal Growth and Involvement Program will:**

**Grow your Club**

**Grow future stars**

**Grow your service**

**Grow your membership**

**Grow future District Leaders**

Start the PGI Program in your club:

**TODAY**

**Bill O'Neil**

**PGI Chair**

***330-722-7071***



# The O-H-I-5-O JOOI JOURNAL

Dear Adult Optimists:

I am writing to ask your Optimistic cooperation in helping to make our **Annual JOOI District Convention** a success. This year our convention will be held on **March 6th & 7th** at Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd. Dayton, OH, We have dared to venture where the Ohio District has previously not been before. An overnight! We have found that there is a lot of work that goes into planning a two-day event such as this and we are asking for your time and support to make it a success. There are several ways in which you and your club can help out.....

First, your club could donate their precious time to help with set-up and breakdown of meals. There will be three meals: a dinner, a breakfast and a lunch. If your club could volunteer to help with one of these meals it would be a big help. Secondly, your club could donate food for one of the three meals. We will be charging a small fee for admission to the Convention to try to cover the cost of food, but any help you could give would be **VERY** appreciated! Lastly, I'd like to offer a youth speaker to speak to your club members about the District and International JOOI Conventions. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me at [937.409.3121](tel:937.409.3121) or e-mail me at [specialkay07@sbcglobal.net](mailto:specialkay07@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you for your time and consideration.....

**Kayleigh White, Ohio JOOI Governor**

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From District JOOI Chair Doug Fritz: RE: 2009 JOOI Bowl-A-Thon on March 7, 2009

This year the OH JOOI District has made the commitment to send at least 10 JOOI members to the International Convention. Following our successful Bowl-A-Thon from last year, we will again be holding a Bowl-A-Thon. Like last year, we are asking each participant to raise/donate at least \$25.00. Unlike last year we are planning something very unique – a “Wii” Bowl-A-Thon. The “Wii” is a video gaming console. We hope to have approximately 20 “virtual” bowling lanes at the Convention site. We plan single game elimination play with top players competing for great prizes and trophies. No prior “Wii” experience is necessary. We’ll have a practice lane with expert trainers to teach Wiiphytes how to bowl using the wireless Wii controller.

Very soon we will make available our Wii Bowl-A-Thon Registration forms. If your Optimist Club cannot participate in person, you can make a donation to the event.

We also may be making history by hosting the world’s largest Wii Bowl-A-Thon. The event is open to Optimists and non-Optimists. If you have a child/grandchild that loves to play Wii, sign them up.

This year we will promote the event to the general public and we hope to get many non-Optimists involved so we can maximize our fundraising.

If you have any questions, contact me at [937.436.1655](tel:937.436.1655) or email to [dfritz@TEC911.net](mailto:dfritz@TEC911.net).

**You** are invited to share in the celebration of the 2007-2008 “**Children Are Golden**” year.

**Who:** You and others to share the accomplishments of the Ohio District

**What:** Ohio District Annual Awards Dinner

**Why:** To celebrate the Ohio District being a Distinguished District for 2007-2008

**Where:** Ramada Plaza, Columbus, Ohio

**When:** Saturday, February 7, 2009

5 pm Hospitality Room - Room 158 - Reception

6 pm Awards Dinner

**How:** Register to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Conference – must be registered by January 30, 2009

We would like to present every award to the person and/or club who earned it. Also, everyone attending will have a special memento to take home.

Thank you all for a wonderful year!

**Immediate Past Distinguished and Outstanding Governor Sharon  
and First Partner Bill O’Neil**

## MIAMI'S OPTIMISTIC START

As the newest club of **Zone 15** in the Ohio District, **Miami University Optimist Club** is off to a great start! With 35 members, and still growing, we are spreading Optimism across the Oxford community.

Our very first project as a club this fall was to help Thomson Residence hall put on their annual Haunted Trail. By the time fall rolls around, the dense, bare woods behind Thomson are prime for spooking our fellow Redhawks. MU Optimist Club got involved in all aspects of the process from setting up spooky props and decorations to acting out spine-chilling skits. All in all, the project was a blast, not to mention a HUGE success! The profits were about three times greater than the year before, totaling out to \$600. Due to the immense help from MU Optimist Club members (over half the club participated), Thomson Hall's Community Council has graciously made the decision to give us a portion of the profits — \$125! This is a helpful boost to our new club and the money will definitely be well spent.

This entire experience has been quite surreal. **Mandy Gaerke**, our **Optimist President**, came to Miami with the contagious enthusiasm to start an Optimist club on campus. With the work and will to get the plans started, Miami University proudly added us as an official school club.

We are truly fortunate and thankful for all of the support we have received through this new and unfamiliar experience. We really owe so much gratitude to Miami University for being flexible and working with our busy schedules. But most of all, we are honored and appreciative of the support and open arms that we have been given from the Optimist Club in our community. We have already had the privilege to meet some wonderfully helpful and inspiring people from the Optimist family; we are looking forward to working and building friendships with all of you in the future. Thank you for all your support! :-)

**Lisa Wilmore, MU Optimist Club Vice President**

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### WAYS TO MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR HAPPY!

Believe in miracles, but don't depend on them.

When you hear a kind word spoken about a friend, tell him/her so.

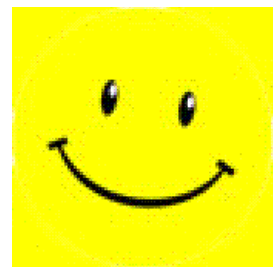
When a friend is in need, help him/her without his/her having to ask.

Remember that cruel words deeply hurt.

Remember that loving words quickly heal.

Remember that nothing important was ever achieved without someone's taking a chance.

Remember that life's most treasured moments often come unannounced.



## GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

**Bill Helms** passed away on December 17, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Ethel, and other family. Bill devoted a lifetime of service to the Optimist organization, serving as International Vice-President, Governor, Lt. Governor and President. He was a member of the Strongsville club and the West Suburban Club, having chartered the West Suburban Club back in 1955. Memorial contributions can be made to Optimist International Foundation, P. O. Box 952126, St. Louis, MO 63195.

### Leaders Don't Push, They Pull!

Leadership isn't something that comes automatically just because you have people working for you. Leadership depends on followers. If people don't follow a manager's lead voluntarily – if they always have to be forced – that person is not a good leader.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower used to demonstrate the art of leadership with a simple piece of string. He'd place the string on a table and say, "Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it and it will go nowhere at all. It's just that way when it comes to leading people."

*Effective leaders know that they can get the best efforts out of people by working with them, by helping them to do their best, by showing them how to be more productive. But try to push or force efforts from people, and you bump up against a brick wall. Leaders don't push, they pull!*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Please do not contact me by the Akron phone number (330.628.6828). I'm not there. If you need to contact me by phone, please call **330.612.5356** (cell) or **956.412.0998**—Texas home phone. The e-mail information is the same. Thank you.

#### Bulletin Editor

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