

EMO Governor Welcome
Governor EAST MISSOURI OPTIMIST DISTRICT
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East Missouri Optimists,

As an Ashland Optimist Club member of 25+ years, it is my honor and privilege to serve you as East Missouri Optimist (EMO) District Governor for 2022 - 2023. As a distinguished club president, and former Lt. Governor, it is my desire to share my successes, and to have you share your successes with me. Together we can grow and “press on to the greater achievements of the future.” As Governor I will support you in two key areas; increasing membership and focusing on that which is most important to your club. It is my belief that no two clubs are identical, and we must identify and focus on each club’s individual needs. That said, one key success marker for all clubs is “new members.”

(ME/MBER)SHIP: Me. Member. Ship. When I see the word “Membership,” I view it as three important parts to the whole concept. The first part is “Me.” Club activities and membership drives are valuable, but the most important part of signing up new members is “Me.” I need to promote my club. I need to ask for applications. That personal invitation and relationship is so powerful. The second part is “Member,” which signifies that I should follow up with the new member, assist them in finding their fit within the club, and ensure that this member succeeds within my club. Finally, the word “Ship.” Together, at all levels, we collectively steer this ship called Optimist International. The success of our clubs, or district, and our organization, rests with our abilities to captain our organization, by recruiting in new talent, new perspectives, and new volunteers. I am proud to have brought in sixty-four new members to date, but hope to continue to increase that each year, sharing “Optimism” with as many as possible.

I believe this next year will be fantastic, with conferences that you find exciting and fresh. I ask for your help in building these events back up to what they were in the past, where we had attendance exceeding one hundred participants, and full engagement. To do this I need your input as to what YOU would like to see presented, what YOU feel is needed at the club level. Conferences are designed not just for officers and executive board members, but most importantly, for all Optimist members.

I would also like to thank you for being enthusiastic in making a positive difference in this world, for being a “Friend of Youth.” YOU make the difference.

Ernie Wren, Governor, 2022-2023

East Missouri Optimist District, Optimist International

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