

North Carolina East District Bulletin

4th Quarter Convention September, 2025



Message from Governor Ray Cockrell

There are so many great things about being in leadership in Optimist. One of the best things is undoubtedly the amazing people you meet and get to know. During the last three years alone, I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet, interact with and get to know two of the last three International Presidents on a personal level. They are inspirational and transformative in their personal lives and as Optimist leaders. I have interacted with Vice Presidents and Governors across the country and beyond. All are impressive, but I am especially fond of the time with the Mid-Atlantic VPs and Governors that I have worked with very closely and learned much. They are wonderful people and represent you very well!

I have had the opportunity to travel to areas that I may not have gone to otherwise. There is something very special about hanging out with hundreds of other Optimists that are like-minded, positive, very smart and just a fun group to be with.

Most of all – the experience over the last three years in getting to know YOU. The “regulars” at the District Meetings, the first-time attendees, leaders in district leadership roles, members at club meetings, dinners, events and projects – and everyone I have encountered through Optimist. You all demonstrate a love and dedication for our organization that can only grow.

Of course, with any organization or endeavor

there are challenges. We are not without our own challenges, but none without a solution. Keep working hard together and we will make a difference.



In my installation talk three years ago, I told the story about a famous pianist who encountered a young boy playing his piano at a concert. You will remember that he came up behind the boy on stage, surrounded him and told him, “Don’t stop – Keep playing”. Beautiful music was made that night.

So, I am here to say, don’t stop – keep playing! Continue to support each other and inspire each other. Continue to work together – we are stronger together! Continue to grow our district and help each other grow personally. I look forward to supporting Timothy and his team as they lead us into the future. I look forward to continuing to be a part of the North Carolina East journey.

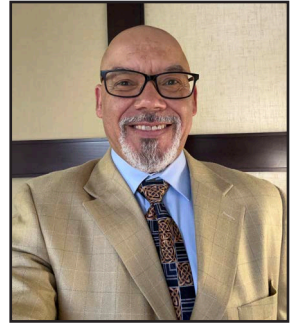
We are stronger together!
Together we Can! I believe
in you!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray".



Governor Elect 2025-2026

Timothy Johnson



365 days! 12 months... 4 District Gatherings... The Year of Preparation has almost concluded. In less than a month, I will be your new North Carolina East District Governor. Wow. Me?!? I'm grateful for the faith you all have in me. I'm grateful for the past year as I tried to learn as much as possible in preparation to step into this role.

I reflected back on the past year recently... The past year has been a whirlwind for me & my family!

Last Fall, a pipe burst in our house, flooding much of the first floor. Our lifestyle was upended as demolition crews dismantled the flooring, confining us to the second floor for almost three months!

We traveled around, as we often do. We visited Panama, Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, the Bahamas, then the Dominican Republic this summer. (In fact, Danñelle is in Scotland during this District Convention!) In those travels, we had some very happy moments... But we also experienced some trials and hardships. We were even stranded in the Dominican Republic after an airplane mechanical issue.

During the past year, we had some reconciliations with estranged family members, and healed some longstanding wounds. And, sadly we experienced a few new wounds. And, we lost loved ones...

We took some financial hits this year. For example, I bought a used vehicle for cash, and the engine blew about a month later. That one hurt! We were stolen from and taken advantage of, and unfortunately swindled. Someone (a "friend") to whom we lent money, stopped paying us back.

We each sustained various injuries!

We had a prematurely born granddaughter. She was delivered at 27 weeks, weighing in at 1 pound, 12 ounces! By God's grace, she survived and is now thriving, at the age of 4 months!

In and through all of these things, and others, I never stopped being an Optimist! I remembered the words: "Promise yourself... To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind!" And, "To look at the sunny side of everything, and make your optimism come true." And most of all, "To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble!"

You see, these aren't just words on a page or comments to recite...

These are words to internalize and to ETERNALIZE! These are life changing, life sustaining precepts!

Join me over the coming year, as we live into the Optimist Creed and live it out, actively!

I'm grateful to be an Optimist. I'm grateful to be your incoming Governor. I'm grateful to support you, to empower your Clubs, and to advance the Power and Promise of Optimism as we bless communities, agencies, and individuals!

Let's continue to make a difference in 2025-2026 in mighty ways!

Timothy Johnson
Your 2025-2026 NC East District Governor

Convention Chairman Sandy Cyphers, Wilmington Club

**YIPPEE!
YAHOO!**

WOW! The time is almost upon us as North Carolina East Optimists when we come together again to enjoy fellowship with each other. It is a weekend to celebrate the past Optimist Year and look forward optimistically to the beginning of a New Optimist Year.

It is my hope that you will enjoy your weekend in Wilmington, NC, watching the Boys & Girls Home Duck Race on Friday evening, spending time socializing and eating hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by the Winter Park Optimist Club, playing corn hole, participating in the Ole Timers Breakfast, having our banquet at the Historical City Club downtown by the river in Wilmington, learning new things at the district meeting, laughing, having fun, sightseeing, meeting new optimists from the district and hopefully learning things to take back to share with your fellow club members. (Make them jealous that they were not with us.)

**I PROMISE YOU ARE ASSURED OF TAKING
SOMETHING BACK WITH YOU!!!**

During the weekend we will be honored to have with us Craig Boring, Optimist International Executive Director. Hint, Hint, don't forget your Foundation Donations. Let's show him the North Carolina East Optimist District truly appreciates the funds given back to the District for scholarships and grants.

I can hardly wait to see who will be the oldest, youngest, the longest Optimist along with the FIRST TIMERS.

Meet me and other Optimists for a GOOD OLE TIME IN WILMINGTON, NC.

Sandy Cyphers
Convention Chairman
O.I.F. WPC Chairman



PROMISE YOURSELF



To give so much
time to the
improvement of
yourself that you
have no time to
criticize others.
-Optimist Creed

Zone 1 Update Bennie Bass, Lt. Governor

Cape Fear

Monthly
Dinner
Meetings



Busy day at
Cape Fear
21 team softball
tournament
"da governor
mak'n hotdogs"

Zone 2 Update Tom Lamont, Lt. Governor



Laurinburg Optimist Clubs Fish Fry



Zone 3 Update

Angela Iwaniuk, Lt. Governor



Brenda Farmer won our latest Quilt Raffle



Picture of Jeremiah with GC Member Leighann Ruppel

More on Jeremiah on page 15



Zone 4 Update

Betty Moseley, Lt. Governor



Roanoke Rapids Coach & Tee Ball

Zone 5 Update

David Jennings Lt. Governor

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(252) 204-5160



Our NC East District Zone 5 consists of the following clubs: Wake Forest, Roxboro, Chapel Hill, Orange County, Wake Tech and Henderson. On March 25, 2025, Paige Bivens, the NC East JOI Club Committee Chair, spoke to the Henderson Club about creating a JOI club in Vance County Schools. As of today, there are five students who want to join and a few more are needed to create the new club. Many thanks to Paige for sharing her expertise.

support the ACTS (Area Christians Together in Service) Food Pantry. The club also gave away 100 free bike helmets to the children at CDC Turning Point's annual celebration. In addition, they raffled off two bikes after the bike rodeo. The club just honored two \$1000 scholarship winners and had a Respect for Law banquet in late August.

The Wake Forest Club continues to sponsor the Crop Hunger Walk which includes their JOI club. They are working feverishly with Backpack Buddies as well as the Food Drive for Tri Area Ministries food pantry. In addition, the Wake Forest club plans on having a quarter auction soon.

These are just a few of the exciting things going on in the zone. Please feel free to share exciting news and photos with me. I love seeing them and each picture brings a smile to my face.

The Henderson club had two fundraisers – a Fish Plate Sale in May and a Quarter Auction on May 17th. The club continues to work with and

Respectfully,
David Jennings
zone5ltgovernor2023@gmail.com
(252) 204-5160



Quarter Frenzy



Fish Fry



Bike Safety



Scholarship Winners



Wake Forest Club
Volunteering at Tri-Area
Ministry

Paige Bivens
presenting
JOI Club info



Zone 6 Update TBD Lt. Governor



Raleigh Club Road Cleanup



Robin & Terry from the Wilson
Golden Circle Club
came out to serve the kids
in Zebulon!



The SWAT Team came out to
feed the kids!

Boys & Girls Homes Linda Shepherd – Golden Circle

The NC East District has been diligent this year in keeping the love going each month to the girls in the Optimist Cottage at the Boys and Girls Homes at Lake Waccamaw. Here are some of the ways that we as Optimists have shown our love during the last few months:

Treat bags were decorated for Memorial Day with a personal note reminding the kids that they are loved by the Optimists in Roanoke Rapids. Included were pencils, mechanical pencils, sharpeners, little notepads, and candy bars.

The Garner club shared items about the celebration of Juneteenth in the month of June.

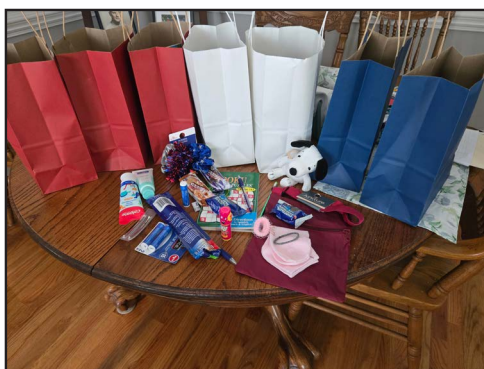
In July, the Golden Circle Optimist Club sent a gift bag for each resident in the cottage. Every girl received several items such as patriotic hair bows for remembering Independence Day, a Snoopy Dog stuffed animal, toiletries, and small snacks.

The Greenville Optimist Club took the helm in August and provided each student with school supplies which were great

for the beginning of the school year.

The Chapel Hill Optimist Club is providing fun hats and scarves for the month of September.

This has been a great project this Optimist year. It has certainly helped the participating clubs to feel a connection with these young ladies—girls who experienced untold issues prior to arriving on the campus at Lake Waccamaw. It has also shown the children that they are worthy of love and care. Thanks to all clubs who have participated during this Optimist year!



Golden Circle July 4th Bags.



Garner Optimist provided Juneteenth bags



Greenville Club School supplies



Roanoke Rapids Memorial Day Bags



Optimist Junior Golf David C Jennings, Henderson Club

Greetings Optimists,

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championship is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world. Each year, more than 600 golfers participate in the championship. Optimists have been involved in the sport of junior golf for more than 30 years by holding local, regional, and international tournaments. The championship consists of qualifiers and culminates with the championship at Trump National Doral Resort and Spa in Miami, FL.

Our NC East Qualifier was held on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Timberlake Golf Club in Clinton, North Carolina. Last year we had seven golfers go on to Doral. This year we had four golfers make the trip.

If you have any interest in helping with this event in the future, please let me know. I need all the volunteers I can get.

Thanks for all your help.

David Jennings
zone5ltgovernor2023@gmail.com
252-204-5160



The Winner



Last year placed #7 at Doral!

THE OPTIMIST 
International Junior Golf Championships

District JOI Club Paige Bivens, Wake Forest Club

Sowing Seeds of JOI

This year has been a year of planning and planting opportunities for JOI Clubs.

Our Wake Forest High School Club sent off our seniors with good wishes for their future as they scatter across the country pursuing their dreams. Our remaining club members sighed relief for testing being over and a summer of fun. We reflected on how we helped others by inculcating good habits, good character, and good virtue in other people's minds, through our generous actions. It was a time of reflection of the good we had done and the contributions we had made in our community. We laughed, we ate, and we celebrated. One of our officers, Nora Halberg won the Wake Forest Optimist Club Scholarship.

We are waiting for two opportunities to begin two more JOI Clubs in our District. We are encouraging the Henderson Club to begin their club. They have some dynamic club advisors that will really lead those students to create a great



club and do great things for the youth in their community. Our other new club is continuing to form at Heritage

High School in Wake Forest. In this case, a group of students are leading its formation. They have filled out the paperwork required, found an advisor at the school, and met with the administration to present the information needed. They are recruiting their friends and acquaintances to join their new club.

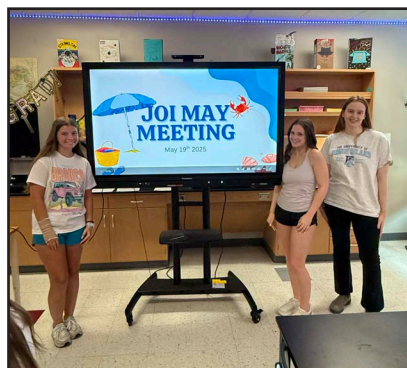
It looks as if the northern part of our District is working to "plant those opportunities" for our youth and for the continuation of the Optimist Club.

We will begin a new year in just a few weeks in our District. Please allow me to help you plant some seeds of JOI in your clubs. As you begin a new year, plan to begin JOI Clubs, whether in your local high school, scouting activities, after school clubs, or sports teams.

We hope we reap what we have sown!



Nora Halberg receives the Wake Forest Optimist Club Scholarship. Pictured l-r: Amy Berger- club advisor, Zainab Bhatti-faculty advisor, Nora, and Paige Bivens club advisor.



Member Engagement

Angela Iwaniuk, Golden Circle and Bennett



Let's Ask Now – Before the End of Our Optimist Year NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

We only have about three weeks before the 2025 Optimist year ends. The good news is that we still have time to ask friends and acquaintances to join our Optimist Club. Please **JUST ASK** others to join us and I believe they will be so glad if they decide to become a member! Don't forget about our incentives for bringing in new members this year!

- Each quarter – All members who bring in a new member will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card.
- At year-end – the club which has brought in the most new members will receive \$250.
- At year-end – the club which has increased their NET members the most will receive \$300.

So far, the Laurinburg Club and Golden Circle Club are tied for bringing the most members in this year. They both have brought in 8 new members. The Laurinburg Club also leads the pack for Net Membership at plus 5. Your club still has time to give them some competition!

Not only can we bring in new members, but we can also ask family, friends and businesses to become a Friend of Optimist which also counts as a new member for our clubs.

Let's end our year with lots of new members!



Don't be afraid to Just Ask!

JUST ASK!

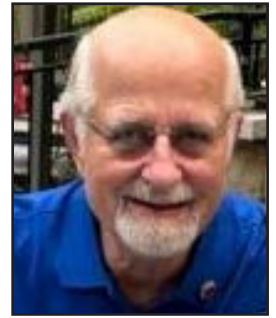


New Club Building (NCB) David Griffiths, Garner

The art of New Club Building is the willingness to ask strangers, "ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD". This may seem like an odd question to ask a stranger but someone asked you the same question before you became a member in your respective Club. One question that many have asked when building a new club in a different community, "WHO SHOULD I ASK". If you do not have any personal contacts in the new community, please review the following list. All you need is one community member to excite others to get the project going:

- Police Chief
- Mayor
- City Council Member
- School Principal
- Local Bankers
- Dentists
- Senior Center Manager

- Local Businesses
- Chamber of Commerce
- Booth at local Farmers Markets
- Booth at Local City Activities
- Local Insurance Agents



It will require dedication so that is why you should have a committee willing to assist you. This is a team effort and if your Club is serious about building a Club a New Club Building Team should be established.

Now is the time to begin. You all have witnessed firsthand the rewards of New Club Building ... remember some took the time to building your Club so YOU COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD.

Dave Griffiths
NCE New Club Building Chair

NEW CLUB BUILDING

PROMISE YOURSELF

To think only of the
best, to work only for
the best, and to
expect only the best.

-Optimist Creed



OI Foundation Representative Gary Pender, Goldsboro Club

Hello Optimists! Another year is almost gone and I would like to say thank you for your support of the OI Foundation .

The foundation could not do without you and your clubs donation and sending so many kids off to college. It's not too late to give by getting a Dime a Day pin for only \$36.50, the President Club or a WP pin for \$100.00 each.

I will be serving the District again as the OI Foundation Representative. I look forward serving you and your club please invite me this upcoming year to visit your Club and talk to you about the Foundation.

Gary Pender DFR



How we communicate to you:

Facebook: North Carolina East District
Website: OptimistNCEast.org
Int'l Website: Optimist.org
Email: Constant Contact



Oratorical Contest

Timothy Johnson

We had another great year for the Oratorical Scholarship contest! As you may know, the Oratorical Contest is one of the three main scholarship programs within Optimist International. In fact, it is the longest running program sponsored by Optimist International! It gives us the opportunity to accomplish three things. Firstly, we are privileged to get to the heart and the spirit of what optimism is and what it means from a young person's perspective. Secondly, we can introduce more people to Optimist International and the great things we do. This includes the young people themselves, parents, teachers, youth leaders, contest judges, and the public! And thirdly, we get to hear directly from young people on what being optimistic means to them specifically and uniquely! And as a bonus, Optimist members directly play a part in continuing the legacy of the Oratorical Contest! It's a huge honor for every participant, parent, spectator, and Club!

The topic this year was "How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times." Each competitor offered their unique perspective on that topic. Many of them shared personal, heartfelt stories from their own lives. Whether adopted, partially blind, previously bullied or badly injured, we were shown how Optimism carried these young people through difficulties and successes alike!

We as Optimists have the privilege and honor of providing scholarships to the winners of this contest. They worked hard and put in the hours. They researched and learned and wrote their speeches. And they presented them at our last District gathering in May.

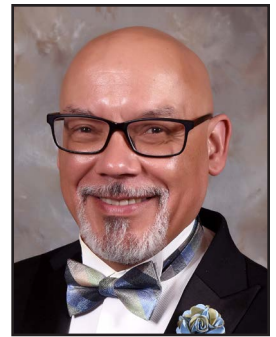
Our District's speaker who came in third place was Kiara Haley. She was from the Golden Circle Optimist Club of Wilson. Her scholarship prize was \$1,000. The Runner Up, second place finisher was Josiah Ausby, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Roanoke Rapids. He earned \$1,500 for second place. And our District's first place winner was Jeremiah Currie! He also stems from the Golden Circle Optimist Club of Wilson. His prize was \$2,500. Incidentally, Jeremiah is only 15 years old!

Congratulations to these winners and kudos to everyone who completed.

All of these competitors, including those who competed at every level in our District, are eligible to compete again! So please encourage them to do so! A

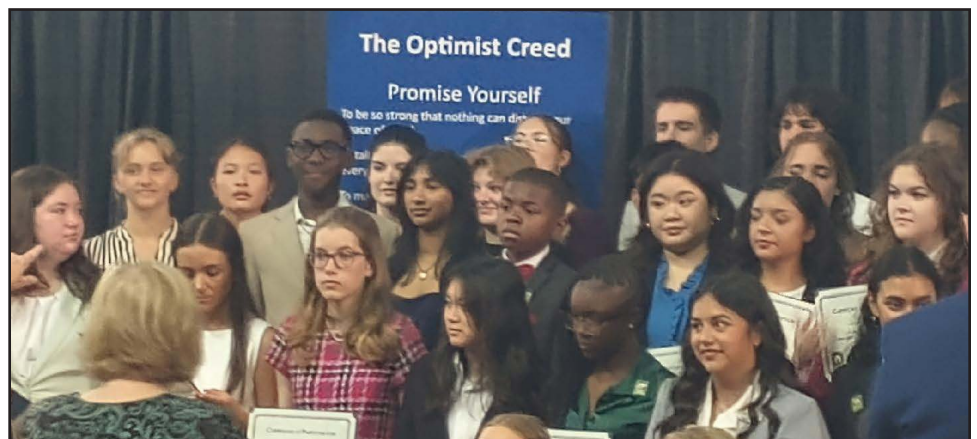
special thanks goes out to the organizers at the Club and Zone levels and those who helped out in every way, at the District level.

Timothy Johnson
Chair, Oratorical Scholarship Contest



International Oratorical Contest

Jeremiah Currie at the Optimist International competition in St. Louis, MO!



North Carolina Optimist East District May 3, 2025 District Meeting Goldsboro, NC

Meeting began at 10:00am with the Optimist East Chant led by Governor Ray Cockrell

Gov Ray - Introduction
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Optimist Creed
Ringing of Bell

First-timers attending:

Tracie Thomas – Garner, Leighann Ruppel – Golden Circle and Charles Hearn – Henderson.

Past Governors attending:

Angela Iwaniuk, Dave Griffith, Sandy Cyphers, Tom Shearer - Capital District, Terry Corle, Capital District and NC East, Gary Pender, and Ray Cockrell

Guests Introductions:

Gov Ray introduced Tom Shearer, Vice President of Mid-Atlantic Region

Motion to accept Agenda

-Motion to accept – Shana Bunn
-2nd - Jonathan Bivens
-Approved

Minutes from Last meeting:

-Motion to accept - Sandy Cyphers
-2nd – Shana Bunn
-Approved

Q2 Fianance report - Terry Corle

Approved at executive meeting

Received check from OI, so total in checking of \$19,000
Give him receipts if you need a reimbursement check

Clubs start date: Governor Ray

Garner May 1966

Goldsboro 1957

Henderson 1961

Wilmington - 1977

Building instructions:

Gary Pender shared restrooms locations. Please leave shower tables be.

Governor Ray introduces Liz Giffiths - Essay Chair:

-Essay contest had 9 contestants. Winner was sponsored by Golden Circle Club of Wilson. McKenna Rowe - plaque presentation. Scholarship through OI of \$2,500. Foundation will send out a letter to her with instruction and will send scholarship money directly to school. Essay was read to us by Liz Griffiths.

Gov Ray - Bicycle joke

Oratorical Contest begins: Timothy Johnson

-Privileged to get at heart and spirit of what optimist is and how it has enhanced their lives. 1. How optimism has guided me through trying times. 2. Introduce to OI. 3. How optimist has helped them. They have put in a lot of hours, researched, practiced and won at club level.

-Sgt of arms - Dave Griffiths - please be mindful of movement during the speeches. Please silence phones. Order is drawn at random. Only introduced by order letter. Do not applaud until end of all.

-Timekeeper: Gov Ray Cockrell

-10:29 - 10:33- Contestant A

-Timothy Dad Joke about claustrophobic astronaut - he just needed space.

-Shana - scarecrow joke -outstanding in his field

-10:35 - 10:39 Contestant B

-Timothy - reminder to silence phones

-10:40 - 10:45 Contestant C

-Angela - Why is Cinderella so bad at soccer?

-10:47 - 10:52 - Contestant D

-Tom - contest started in 1028 - JOI started in 1924 - just boys in the beginning

-10:53 - 10:57 Contestant E

-Contestants introduced themselves, year in school, school they attend and club that sponsored them.

-Dave Griffiths - one of many projects we do for the youth. Asking each of you as parents, grandparents and friends to help us. Statistics show each new member touches lives of 35 children. Has membership applications if any parents would like to join. It involves teamwork to touch children's lives.

15 minute break

Oratorical Contest Winners: Timothy Johnson –

He loves the Be Prepared speech from Lion King. It was a very tight competition and range of scores were so narrow.

3rd place – Kiara Haley

2nd place – Josiah Ausby

1st place – Jeremiah Currie

They advance to the next round in July.

-Introduced judges.

-Leslie Lockhart – owner of Positively Apex

-Lindsey Licausi – owner of non-profit Back the

Blue NC

-Anita Plant – Administrative Assistant and active volunteer at Oaks Church

Lunch

Blessing – Will Iwaniuk

Oratorical Contestants and family

Kiara Haley – Golden Circle (4)

Jeremiah Currie – Golden Circle (2)

Josiah Ausby - Roanoke Rapids (3)

Coraline Saunders - Roanoke Rapids (2)

Will Stoval - Henderson (3)

McKenna Rowe - Wilson (3)

Committee Reports:

-Angela Iwaniuk – MEMBER ENGAGEMENT - important to bring members in. We need people to replace us in the community projects. Team up with another club that does projects.

New Member Gift Cards Robin Martha - Golden Circle, Gail Craft - 2 new members, Linda Shepherd 1 member, Laurinburg had 3 new members and Stephanie Frank - 1 member

-NEW CLUB BUILDING - Dave Griffiths – He attended the Volunteer Fair at Apex. 5 folks are interested. Outer Banks – they will be back in July to Kill Devil Hills.

-JOI - Paige Bivens - Dave Jennings had her come see him and they are starting a club in Vance County. Regional Alliance Business events for freshman. JOI Club gives students opportunities for volunteering. Heritage HS is interested in a new JOI Club.

-BGHNC - Sandy Cyphers - Firequacker sold over 3,000 tickets last year. Raised over \$51,000 dollars last year to purchase 2 very needed vans. Tickets are \$10ea. One race in the west and one in the east during the 4th Qtr meetings. Round of applause for making this happen last year. Sandy serves on the Board of Trustees as well as Gary Pender. She thanked everyone who came to Optimist Day at BGHNC. They had camaraderie and planted flowers. Such a positive day. Wilmington Club provided Easter baskets for the cottage. Juneteenth was sponsored by the Garner Club. Golden Circle will sponsor July 4th. Goldsboro sponsored Black History Month. Wake Forest sponsored Valentines Day.

-Gary Pender - OI FOUNDATION - We give out \$7,500 dollars in scholarships between essay and oratorical. He needs our help. Dime-A-Day \$36.50 - needs more of those. \$100 Women's Philanthropy. \$250 Presidents Club. Drawing for Dime-A-Day. Drawing for those sent in is - Frank Woche. Sandy Cyphers is a Lifetime - Bronze. Member of OI Foundation Board. \$1,000 Sandy Cyphers. Women's philanthropy - Pender (2ea). Sandy will put us in a drawing for \$300.

-David Jennings – JR GOLF is in Clinton this year. Nice and central to the NC East. Tee off at 8:00 in the morning. Need volunteers by 9:30am. Sent 7 kids to Doral last year. One came in 10th in his age bracket. Tournament is June 13th - Timberland Golf Club in Clinton, NC.

-NC EAST DISTRICT CONVENTION - Sandy Cyphers - September 5-7 - Wilmington, NC, 4th Quarter. Hilton Garden Inn at Mayfair. Room rates \$149.00 king \$159 for queen. Training will be done at a different time. All fun time. Friday night - Firequacker 3000 at Jungle Rapids 4:00pm. Governor Ray cookout. Game night. Come and have a grand time!!!

OI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – Timothy Johnson. Join us at the Optimist International Convention in St. Louis, MO at Union Station Hotel. Lots of free and fun stuff to do in St. Louis. You get to meet all the big wigs who make things happen. June 29- July 3. District dinner together. Tom Shearer - new aquarium at the station. 6-7 from district raised hands they are going. Gov Ray - best part is 700-800 reciting creed. Angela loves the flags from all the countries.

Lieutenant Governors

-Zone 3 - Golden Circle – Golf tournament - September 12 in Wilson. Successful Bunco night. Angela - helped a child's family with brain cancer. He passed away. Kisses for Cancer is the 3rd week in May at Parker's. Usually raise between \$2,000 - \$3,000. How much would you give me for a kiss? Goldsboro Club - transitioning from club house they had for 15 years. Community outreach at Mt. Olive pickle festival - in charge of hospitality room. Next Saturday will be a Touch a Truck event at fairgrounds. Meeting at library now. Gary - story about Bill Edgerton about Kisses for Cancer at Walmart.

Zone 4 - Betty Mosley– Just finished Boston Butt fundraiser. Doing twice a year now. 125 butts in November. 5 grills donated by Shell. United with Tracy Story - he is changing the story - he gives a lot, fans for Seniors donations. Donated \$200 worth of fans. T-ball coach pitch now. 12 teams with 15 kids starts next week through June 19th. Wake Forest and Henderson do a lot. Jonathan Bivens - Wake forest - they got out of the car show business to doing more activities a few a month. Members want to be more engaged. Note in the pocket. Field of Dreams with ROTC guys. Camaraderie in our club. JOI had a fundraiser at Alpaca. Helping Rotary club with their car show in a few weeks. Snack food for boys and girls club. East Wake Club feed a few times a month. They have Bingo. Old gymnasium was packed. Henderson Club scholarship committee is due June 5th for folks in college. Food pantry on Tuesdays. Grant for 100 bike helmets through NC DOT. Fish fry on Tuesday. Quarter auction on May 17th. Going to Mudcats game next week.

-Zone 6 – Rebecca Lakey - Garner - giving out 6 scholarship dinner on May 5th. June 7th reverse raffle includes dinner. \$50. June 15th taking BGH Optimist Cottage girls to Woodpeckers game in Fayetteville. East Garner - Griffiths are working middle schools with earn 1 letter grade Bring Up a Grade. Recognized 501 students. 429 students at another school. 1st quarter of next year will recognize 6th and 7th grades for awards. When in VA they partnered with Kiwanis and had pizza parties for them. Cannot do it here. Provide a snack and a drink.

Zone 6 - Timothy - Raleigh Optimist - advanced an essay person but did not have many entries. Big expense at the farm needed to fix the dam \$40,000. Depleted their bank account. They rent their property through the rest of the year. A couple of deaths recently but have a good core group. For BGHNC buy electric piano and air hockey table. Roadside cleanup 4-5 times a year. HS robotics team operates out of their property. Need to talk to them about becoming a JOI club. Fishing tournament coming up in a few weeks. At the end of the summer, they have an awards presentation and cookout. Prizes for biggest, smallest fish, snapping turtles, etc. They have a sand volleyball league on their property that is starting soon. They had an Easter egg hunt the other week. Gave donation to BGHNC.

Tom Lamont – BGHNC

4th quarter can tabs bring to 4th quarter for Ronald

McDonald House. Cottage renovations are ¾ complete moving through staff quarters and pantry is next. They will be able to attract quality teaching parents for that cottage.

Special Guest – Tom Shearer.

Introduced by Governor Ray. 8 regions across US. He is VP of MidAtlantic Region. New Optimist Welcome Event. There is a guide you can download under OI Member Resources. Had a Now Night in MD and signed up 9 new members. OI 365 day cruise - club opts in at anytime. Drawing at end of each quarter for \$250.

-St Louis OI Convention. Early Bird is closed. Need volunteers for summer programs like Jr Golf tournament. Contact Sharon Pardon ext 207. JOI Summit- dorm hosting and onsite meals at St. Louis University. July 17 - 20. April was volunteer month. OI has been updated for 2025-2026 year. Officers can start right now. 1.5 hours to train. Must be trained by Oct 1. Club Officer elect reports due in 2 weeks. Honor Club to have reports sent in on time and all trained.

End of Meeting Comments

-Sandy Cyphers - Doral is a wonderful experience.

-Terry Corle - Thanked folks for purchasing from store today.

-Governor-Elect Timothy Johnson – Would love to have folks volunteer for leadership positions. He is reinstating Chat with Governor.

-Folks shared dad jokes.

Janet Oord-Graves – OI President video

GOAT Award – Angela gave to the Goldsboro Club

Optimist Creed

Adjourn 1:55pm

Meeting Attendance Roster

Ray Cockrell

Kimberly Cockrell

Sandy Cyphers

Rebecca Lakey

Lydia Dameron

Tracie Thomas

David Jennings

Will Iwaniuk

Angela Iwaniuk

Charles Hearn

Dave Griffiths

Liz Griffiths

Dawn Clark

Gary Pender

Jewel (Annie) Wilson

Robin Martha

Shana Bunn

Betty Mosley

Carey Foster

Jonathan Bivens

Paige Bivens

Terry Corle

Tom Shearer

Timothy Johnson

Benny Bass

Leigh Ann Ruppel

Chuck Keith

Dinorah Keith

Anetta Reid

Mary Elder



Draft Budget/ North Carolina East District 2024 - 2025

Account Name Receipts	Budgeted Receipts	1st Qtr Receipts	2nd Qtr Receipts	3rd Qtr Receipts	4th Qtr Receipts	Actual Receipts	Difference
#100 Dues	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,111.00	\$ 2,569.00	\$ 1,856.00	\$ -	\$ 6,536.00	\$ (3,464.00)
#105 Corporate Partners						\$ -	\$ -
#110 Allotment OI	\$ 626.00	\$ 305.83				\$ 305.83	\$ (320.17)
#120 Dist Convention	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 642.13				\$ 642.13	\$ (2,357.87)
#130 Dist Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 382.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 625.00		\$ 1,169.00	\$ (1,831.00)
#145 Jr. Golf						\$ -	\$ -
#150 Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,751.00				\$ 1,751.00	\$ 1,251.00
#160 Optimist Store	\$ 500.00		\$ 112.00	\$ 217.00		\$ 329.00	\$ (171.00)
#190 OI Foundation Auction						\$ -	\$ -
#191 Auction B & G Home	\$ 400.00					\$ -	\$ (400.00)
#192 Fifty Fifty	\$ 200.00		\$ 45.00			\$ 45.00	\$ (155.00)
#650 Transfer Prev Admin	\$ 16,717.00					\$ -	\$ (16,717.00)
#800 CCDHH	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 34,943.00	\$ 5,191.96	\$ 2,888.00	\$ 2,698.00	\$ -	\$ 10,777.96	\$ (24,165.04)

Account Name Disbursements	Budgeted Disbursements	1st Qtr Disbursements	2nd Qtr Disbursements	3rd Qtr Disbursements	4th Qtr Disbursements	Actual Disbursements	Difference
#200 Governor	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)
#210 Lt. Governors	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 308.88	\$ 103.12			\$ 412.00	\$ (1,388.00)
#250 District Secretary	\$ 300.00					\$ -	\$ (300.00)
#252 District Treasurer	\$ 300.00					\$ -	\$ (300.00)
#255 Governor Elect	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#260 Immediate Past Gov. OI Conv. *						\$ -	\$ -
#261 Past Governor	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#262 B & G Home Chair	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#283 New Club Building	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#265 Committee Chairs	\$ 3,000.00			\$ 205.92		\$ 205.92	\$ (2,794.08)
#300 Clerical/Secretary						\$ -	\$ -
#301 Postage	\$ 50.00					\$ -	\$ (50.00)
#320 Office Supplies	\$ 300.00			\$ 149.08		\$ 149.08	\$ (150.92)
#330 District Bulletin	\$ 500.00	\$ 209.17	\$ 477.48	\$ 397.51		\$ 1,084.16	\$ 584.16
#331 Web Page	\$ 325.00					\$ -	\$ (325.00)
#340 District Directory	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#350 District Convention	\$ 6,000.00					\$ -	\$ (6,000.00)
#360 District Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 650.20	\$ 900.00		\$ 1,870.20	\$ (1,129.80)
#361 Lt Governor's Conf.						\$ -	\$ -
#370 Oratorical Contest	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#371 CCDHH Contest	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#380 Jr. Golf	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 981.56		\$ 981.56	\$ (1,018.44)
#390 Essay Contest	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 174.95		\$ 174.95	\$ (825.05)
#400 Badges & Pins Officers	\$ 400.00	\$ 254.83		\$ 15.93		\$ 270.76	\$ (129.24)
#410 Awards Current Year						\$ -	\$ -
#411 Awards, Past Year	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#420 Audit/Bank Charges	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#421 Audit Review 990	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#430 Merchandise / Optimist Store	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#440 NCB Supplies	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#441 Membership	\$ 2,100.00		\$ 515.00	\$ 80.00		\$ 595.00	\$ (1,505.00)
#442 A & A	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#443 Personal Growth						\$ -	\$ -
#444 Childhood Health	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 400.00			\$ 400.00	\$ (600.00)
#446 Leadership Develop	\$ 250.00					\$ -	\$ (250.00)
#447 OI Foundation	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#448 Boys & Girls Home	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#450 Gifts (Guest)	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#470 Miscellaneous	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,089.00		\$ 159.90		\$ 3,248.90	\$ 1,248.90
#480 Previous Admin Exp	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#490 Next Admin Exp						\$ -	\$ -
Total Disbursements	\$ 34,475.00	\$ 4,181.88	\$ 2,145.80	\$ 3,064.85	\$ -	\$ 9,392.53	\$ (25,082.47)

* #260 Only if current Gov can't attend

YTD Summary

Total Receipts	\$ 34,943.00	\$ 5,191.96	\$ 2,888.00	\$ 2,698.00	\$ -	\$ 10,777.96	
Total Disbursements	\$ 34,475.00	\$ 4,181.88	\$ 2,145.80	\$ 3,064.85	\$ -	\$ 9,392.53	
	\$ 468.00	\$ 1,010.08					

Beginning Bank Balance	\$ 18,280.78						
Ending Bank Balance		\$ 17,085.48	\$ 18,370.68	\$ 17,913.72			

Note: A minus number in H means we are under budget
A plus number in H means we are over budget

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing
can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity
to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that
there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything
and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best,
and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others
as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press
on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times
and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement
of yourself that you have no time
to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger,
too strong for fear, and too happy
to permit the presence of trouble.



Optimist

INTERNATIONAL

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