



Happenings

The Bulletin of the North Carolina East District of Optimist International



JANUARY, 2001

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GOVERNOR...

We are now well into the second quarter of the Optimist year and time has gone by very quickly. I hope all of you had a wonderful and safe holiday.

I have visited with many of our clubs in the district already and I must say I am very impressed by what I have seen. I receive weekly updates from O.I. on the status of our district - membership is up and most recently I learned that the NC East District ranks number 11th out of the 53 districts in O.I. I thank all of you who have made this possible.

Membership is an ongoing effort, however. Additionally, we need to focus on the building of additional clubs this quarter and in the remaining months of the year. We have a great staff of people able and willing to help anyone who wants to start a new club - all you have to do is ask.

Several things are on the calendar for this quarter. The Essay Contest is in full swing. The deadline for submitting essays to Chairman, Rick Overman, Rocky Mount, is February 28th. The District Meeting is scheduled for February 16th - 17th at the Sheraton Imperial, Research Triangle Park. International President, Bob Garner and his wife, Toni, will be in attendance. I am hopeful for a good attendance in a show of support for our International President.

My stated goal for this year was to help more children and I feel we are headed in the right direction. However, we have much to do before these goals are realized. I am counting on each of you - every Optimist in the North Carolina East District - to work together and make this a great year for our children.

Thank you for everything.

LuAnn

NC East District Web Site

Thanks to Bob Verne, the N.C. East District web site is up and running. You can access it at: <http://home.nc.rr.com/nceast>.

The site includes the Optimist Creed a Governor's message, officer directory, zone directory, meetings schedule, programs, and a copy of the Bulletin.

Additionally, descriptions of the Oratorical

Contest, Essay Contest, CCDHH, OI Junior Golf, the Optimist license plate program, and the e-mail discussion group are included.

A very professional looking site, which, hopefully, will aid in promoting Optimism.

1ST Q. DISTRICT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our 1st quarter board meeting was held at the Quality Inn, Goldsboro, October 20-21 with approximately 45 in attendance. Some items of interest discussed were: O.I. Foundation requesting a 10% increase from each club this year; a proposed NC East District web site (see previous article); preparation of a District Cookbook; discussion of an excursion to Boys and Girls Homes at Lake Waccamaw in May; a proposed promotion of a putt-putt golf tournament; and the further promotion of a special NC license plate displaying the Optimist logo among others.

Sandee Spradley re-capped the highlights of the Friday Family Night "Fun Festival" which had an in-costume Halloween theme and was a huge success. In the process over \$500 was raised for Boys and Girls Homes.

We were pleased to have O.I. Vice-president, Denard Harris and his wife as our guests at this meeting.

OPTIMIST JUNIOR BOWLING PROGRAM

The Optimist Junior Bowling Program is an exciting way for us to promote the sport of bowling to young people. Each year, more than 50,000 boys and girls compete in junior bowling leagues and tournaments worldwide.

The best of these bowlers will now have the opportunity to advance to the annual Optimist International Junior Bowling Championships (OIJBC) held December 26-29 in St. Louis. A total of \$12,000 in scholarships will be awarded to the winners.

The NC East District is looking for a chairperson to run this year's event. Interested persons should

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contact **Governor, LuAnn Poole at 877-767-6487, or local 878-9158.**

OLD IS....

Old is when your sweetie says, "let's go up stairs and make love", and you say, "I can't do both".

Old is when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor instead of by the police.

Old is when going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

Old is when "getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

Over 3500 gallons and still growing"....

That's the motto of the Goldsboro C.B. Aycock High School **Octagon Club**. The club, which was chartered January 1992, and currently boasts 170 members, is an inspiring example of what youth can do through their involvement in Optimist related activities.

This Octagon Club has striven to establish itself as a viable, reputable and recognizable organization by having a "main-stay" fund-raiser with which it could support community service.

Thanks to the Goldsboro Optimist Club, which purchased their first 20 quart, hand cranked, White Mountain freezer, they were off and running. Ingenuity prevailed when they mounted the hand-cranked freezer on a trolley cart and attached a 1/4 hp electric motor, thus allowing for more mobility.

Subsequently they have progressed to a concession trailer, and more recently to a converted 22 foot bread truck named "Sweet Tooth". Currently they make seven flavors of ice cream, and can produce five gallons in approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

Much of the money earned goes back to the community in the form of contributions including school projects. They anticipate being able to serve ice cream during school lunches and activities, which would accrue approximately \$10,000 a year for the school.

To learn more about this program, contact Mr. Thomas Smith, counselor, C.B. Aycock High School, Goldsboro, (919) 242-6994.

"GET COOKING WITH OPTIMISM"

The first annual N.C. East Optimist Cookbook is on the drawing boards, being spearheaded by Gail and Sandy from the Greenville Club. Whether you cook gourmet or just sling hash, send in one or more of your favorite recipes to: **G.A.S. Productions, 897 Maple Ridge Rd, Greenville, NC 27858.**

Information should include your name, spouses name, your Optimist Club, name of recipe, number of servings, category (meat, vegetable, desert, etc), list of ingredients, and preparation instructions. Also include your phone number for further contact.

Cookbooks will be available for sale at the District Convention in August with proceeds going to Boys and Girls Homes.

O. I. BULLETIN CONTEST

Club Bulletin Editors are reminded of the O.I. Bulletin Contest. Send two consecutive issues of your club Bulletin to the **District Bulletin Chairman** and designate them for O.I. Contest consideration.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Essay Contest -students from private and charter schools, and home schoolers are eligible as well as public school students. Entry deadline is February 28. Submit to Rick Overman, Rocky Mount Club, or contact him for additional information (252-446-3011)

Oratorical Contest - Traditionally we have always held these contests in early spring although O.I. does not specify dates for local contests to be held. The District contest will be held May 4-5 at Boys and Girls Homes in Lake Waccamaw. District winners must be in to O.I. by July 1, 2001. Gary Schrum (919-544-9272) is chairman.

Jr. World Golf - Jerry Medlin (919-870-0234) is this year's chairman. Club tournaments must be completed by May 30; district tournament is scheduled for June 15-16. If you know of a golf course that could accommodate the tournament, let Jerry know.

Boys and Girls age 16-18 are eligible.

Respect For Law Week - May 7-13.

International Convention - July 1-4 in Orlando, Florida.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Personal Growth & Involvement awards will be presented at the February District Meeting. Requests for these awards should be submitted to Chairman, **Gary Schrum, by February 3.**

E-mail Discussion Group - provides a way to participate in email discussions of matters important to Optimists. Contact **Bob Verne, rverne@yahoo.com**, for more information.

5x12 Club offers a systematic way of making donations to Boys & Girls Homes (\$5.00 a month for 12 months). If you participate, be sure to let your club treasurer know to be reported for A & A points.

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Zone Directory changes:

Address change: Harold Wright, Sec/Treas, Tarboro Club, 1404 Canterbury Rd., Tarboro, NC 27886.

Home phone 252-823-2525, work phone 252-6411-3349, e-mail franharold @ earthlink.net.

Barbara Timmons, A & A chairperson, e-mail BARBNJCT@aol.com

Sandy Cyphers Bohn, Lt. Gov. Zone 1, e-mail scyphersbohn@bellsouth.net.

Billy Edgerton, President Goldsboro Club, e-mail EHOME@esn.net.

New Club Prospects:

Among sites in the District which have been singled out for new clubs are **Morehead City** and **Kill Devil Hills**. If anyone has any contacts in these areas, please call or e-mail Governor, LuAnn Poole, (919-878-9158), luannpoo@ aol.com.

District is currently 1334 members strong - plus 38 for the year!!!

CLUB HAPPENINGS...

The following information about club activities has been gleaned from club bulletins. The most common project this fall and winter has been Christmas tree sale in which 10 clubs have participated. Unless particularly noteworthy, this project has not been singled out for each club.

Elizabethtown - conducted annual barbecue. Kudos go to Art Watkins for selling 99 tickets.

Farmville - participated in the "Positive Student Optimistic Award" program at Sam Bundy and Suggs Elementary schools. Donated landscaping and benches to Sam Bundy School.

Golden Circle - conducted Youth Appreciation program honoring students from the Eastern NC School for the Deaf. President, Charlene Barbour, won 1st place for best costume at district meeting.

Goldsboro - club members participated in a Special Olympics Bowling competition of approximately 100 participants. They are currently working with schools for both the Essay and Oratorical contest. The club helped sponsor a children's Christmas party at the Lighthouse Shelter. Unfortunately their bulletin editor's computer recently got wiped out by a "killer virus" ...sorry!

Mount Olive - They have a committee, which sends out letters to organizations within the community advising them of the club's existence and its purpose in an effort to promote community relations. They conducted a sale of Christmas CD's,

and had a NOW program to boost membership.

North Raleigh - maintained their corn on the cob and corn dog concession stand at the State Fair with \$7000 profit. Coordinated the Foster Children's Christmas tree project at Cary Town Mall.

Donated turkeys to Helping Hand Christmas Service project. Swapped interclub visits with the Chapel Hill Club.

Raleigh Breakfast - made a profit of \$4400 from their State Fair concession stand. The club is involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program - picked up 18 bags of trash on their November sweep. Conducted a NOW program in November.

Roanoke Rapids - organized and supported the NBA 2 ball basketball tournament in mid-January, and the youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament the following week.

Rocky Mount Evening - had a successful concession stand at the Nash County Fair. In November this club honored three members for more than 30 years of service to Optimism.

Washington - the club is actively involved in 2 area soccer programs and is currently involved in a partnership with the city to fund a shelter at the soccer field.

Whiteville - also involved in soccer programs, members worked the admission gates at high school football games, members are involved in the construction of a new baseball field, congratulations to Les Craft who has been inducted to the Hall of Fame at his former college.

Wilmington - participated in the zone collection of winter coats for the Salvation Army, are contributing clothes or houseware items to the Country Store at Boys & Girls Homes. How do they work on membership? By participating in a \$100 prize drawing for each new member brought in

Wilson Evening - was represented at Barton College Baseball Banquet, handled the parking of cars at county fair, also sponsors a soccer team, involved in pinewood derby, answered "letters to Santa" at Christmas, Richard Sidling, grandson of two club members received Eagle Scout award.

Winter Park - they also participated in the winter coat drive, they are actively securing sponsors for their baseball and softball programs, and the club has their own web page - access unknown!

Youngsville - involved in local basketball program, considering two county mentoring programs - "Friends of Youth" and the "Adolescent Parenting Program", had interclub visit with the Henderson Club.

SECOND QUARTER
DISTRICT MEETING
FEBRUARY 16-17, 2001
SHERATON IMPERIAL
HOTEL, RESEARCH
TRIANGLE PARK

International President, Robert Garner and his wife, Toni, will be our guests. So, lets have an enthusiastic, NC East District turnout for the meeting and the luncheon.

Tom McCutcheon
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