



Happenings

The Bulletin of the North Carolina East District of Optimist International



APRIL, 2001

2nd QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING

The Sheraton Imperial Hotel at Research Triangle Park was the site for our 2nd quarter district meeting and awards luncheon.

We were honored to have International President, Robert Garner and his wife Toni as our guests. President Garner enthusiastically spoke during the business session and at the luncheon about the status of O.I. and volunteerism in general.

He stated that O.I. is currently in the enviable position of being debt free with no outstanding loans or mortgages.

Additionally, he confirmed that volunteerism in the U.S. is now at the highest level in the past century by reason of the fact that we are a compassionate society and the economic good time we are now experiencing.

He stated that there are 20,000 organizations in the U.S. serving youth, and that the need continues to grow. O.I. has established a 7 member task force to decide what new directions need to be explored, and would welcome any input from Optimist in this regard.

Youngsters from the YMCA "Y-Life Chorus" entertained us with lively song during the luncheon.

A Message From Your Governor...

Yes, we had a great 2nd quarter conference.

I was particularly pleased with the large member turnout and that we were able to have President Garner as our guest.

I hope each club has been productive and has been meeting their expectations. There are only five months remaining before our new officers take over.

Our new Governor is Carey Foster, from Roanoke Rapids and I extend him my very best wishes for a successful year.

Speaking of new officers, it is time to consider new club officers for next year. Be sure to submit the Officer Elect Forms by May 20th. Blank forms can be obtained from O.I. headquarters or downloaded from the district web site at -

<http://home.nc.rr.com/nceast/download.html>.

I want to thank all the clubs that have added members this year. NC East now ranks 6th among all the districts in O.I. Keep up the good work!

Hope to see you all at the May District Meeting.

LuAnn

BOYS AND GIRLS HOMES IS THE SITE FOR THE 3RD DISTRICT MEETING - MAY 4th-5th

Be sure to circle your calendars for what is sure to be a most interesting and inspiring meeting. If you have never been to the campus of Boys and Girls Homes at Lake Waccamaw, you are in for a treat.

The Friday evening activity is a "fun night with the kids" - what could be more rewarding! Then on Saturday morning, the regular business meeting and the finals of the District Oratorical Contest and the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH).

The motel is the Best Western Premiere Inn, 503 North J.K. Powell Blvd., Whiteville, NC, and phone 910-642-6214. Pre-registration deadline was

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April 20th, however you may still call the motel directly.

ESSAY CONTEST RESULTS

Rich Overman reports that 44 essays were submitted from 16 clubs within the district. Cape Fear Club took honors with 19 essays submitted, the Chapel Hill Club also made a respectable showing with 6 essays submitted.

The district contest was judged in March and the winner is Amanda Buckley, a junior at Needham Broughton High School, who was sponsored by the Raleigh Optimist Club.

JR. WORLD GOLF TOURNAMENT

Reminder: The District Jr. World Golf Tournament is scheduled for June 12-13 at Lane Tree Golf Club in Goldsboro.

Entry fee is \$100 for the 1st contestant, \$50 for the 2nd, and \$25 for the 3rd contestant from each club.

Winner receives an expense paid trip to Orlando to compete in the playoffs. Names of contestants should be submitted by May 20th.

For additional rules and entry forms, contact: Jerry Medlin, 8416 Old Well Lane, Raleigh, NC, 27615, phone: 919-870-0234.

Ever Wonder Why...

...dimes, quarters, and half-dollars have notched edges, while pennies and nickels do not?

The U.S. Mint began putting notches on the edges of coins containing gold and silver to discourage holders from shaving off small quantities of the precious metal. Dimes, quarters, and half-dollars are notched because they once contained silver.

Pennies and nickels are not notched since those metals are not valuable enough to shave.

CLUB BULLETIN CONTEST

Club presidents are asked to remind their bulletin editors of the O.I. Bulletin Contest. The contest serves to recognize those clubs who work to ensure effective communication among club members.

There are four categories of awards based on membership (as of October 1, 2000):

...Clubs with 34 or fewer members

...Clubs with 35 to 74 members

...Clubs with 75 or more members

...New clubs (organized after October 1, 2000).

Judging is based on a number of visual and content items including, but not limited to:

...clearly designed masthead

...inclusion of Optimist and O.I. president's logo

...date, time, and place of meetings and events

...names of club officers, editor, & telephone #'s

...inclusion of the Optimist Creed

...report on last meeting's program and events

...names of guests and new members

...calendar of upcoming programs and events

...personal news about members

...colorful stories, humor, and happenings

...the use of photos, graphics, and illustrations

...attractive, easy to read, effective lay-out

These are some of the attributes of an interesting and effective bulletin. Additional information is found on page 29 of the April/May issue of The Optimist magazine or bulletin editors may contact me for a copy of the full rules and judging criteria.

To submit entries, send me **3 consecutive issues** of your club bulletin issued since October 1, 2000 in an envelope and designated **for Bulletin Contest**. Also identify your club by **club number** and advise which of the four **categories** (based on membership) your club is eligible for. I must have your entries no later than **August 15, 2001**.

District entries will be judged locally, and one winner in each category will be submitted to O.I. for International judging.

Any questions? Call, write, or e-mail:

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Ever Wonder Why...

...many coin banks are shaped like pigs?

Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of dense, orange clay called “pygg”. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as “pygg banks”. When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

...Promise to look at the sunny side of everything and make your Optimism come true.

WHY NEW MEMBERS?

Our clubs are “Reaching High For Our Children”. But there is only a short time left in the school year. And your question is, “*What does that have to do with an Optimist Club*”? And the answer is...our youth will be out from under the supervision of a teacher. Therefore, we need to become a “Friend of Youth”. The keys to acquiring new members are simple:

“Ask”....family members, friends, co-workers if you may take them to an Optimist Club meeting. If they ask, “*What is an Optimist Club*”? Tell them we are a group of men and women whose motto is “Friend of Youth” and that we are doing our best to live by a creed that is second to none.

“Pick them up”....and take them to a meeting. Be sure they are introduced and have time to visit with club members in attendance.

“Follow-Up”....by calling, visiting and, again, take them to the next club meeting or activity. When we do this, we will truly be “Reaching High(er) For Our Children”.

Thanks to Membership Chairman, Les Craft, for these “words of wisdom”.

**ARE YOU A 5 X 12 MEMBER?
\$5.00 a month for 12 months
constitutes a pledge to the Optimist
Endowment Fund of Boys & Girls
Homes.**

Ever Wonder Why...

...people say “mind your p’s and q’s when they want you to be careful?”

When children write letters, they often get their lower case p’s and q’s mixed up. To help avoid mistakes, teachers of old would remind them to “mind their p’s and q’s.”

A second explanation traces back to old English pubs where pints and quarts of ale were marked on a chalkboard under the headings p’s and q’s.

When a patron had accumulated a high number of marks, the patron would be reminded by the barkeeper to “mind his p’s and q’s”.

DISTRICT CONVENTION TO TAKE ON HAWAIIAN THEME

We return again to the Sheraton Atlantic Beach Hotel for the District Convention, August 15-18 with a Hawaiian theme.

There will be grass skirts, flowered shirts, and plenty of tropical flowers. But, to pull this off.... **we need the flowers!**

So, Sandee Spradley is asking everyone to donate **silk or plastic flowers or tropical greenery** to be used for decorations.

Please bring these items to the May District Meeting at Lake Waccamaw.

In all probability they will not be returned since they will suffer the inevitable fate of all party decorations.

More information about the convention will be in the next District Bulletin.

CLUB HAPPENINGS...

The following information has been abstracted from club bulletins this quarter.

Elizabethtown...recognized the East Bladen Cougars State Basketball Champions with a dinner for players, coaches, and cheerleaders...The club is proposing that scholarships be awarded at the District level for Essay Contest winners.

Farmville...Sponsored a float in the Farmville Christmas Parade...Hosted the 2nd quarter zone meeting...Held a TV raffle in March...Scheduling a yard sale in June, and a barbecue dinner in September.

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Goldsboro...Sponsored Tri-Star Basketball, held Easter egg hunt for over 100 youth, assisted with Special Olympics swim meet, honored a past Hearing Impaired Oratorical winner who now teaches at the School for the Deaf in Wilson. Upcoming - kids "Day in the Park", child safety seat check, bike safety.

Greenville...Bicycle Safety program with the Farmville Club, held NOW program in March, will recognize Respect for Law Week in May, promoting 5 x 12 club among members.

North Raleigh...Club outing at N.C. Art Museum, recognized as sponsor of YMCA basketball teams, awarded Life Membership, purchased new trailer for State Fair concession - old trailer given to Youngsville Club, will man concession at Walnut Creek Amphitheater this summer, conducting 2nd Annual Golf Tourney on April 27.

Raleigh...Promoted memorial fund in honor of deceased member, Roger Root, clean-up campaign of The Optimist Farm in preparation for summer activities and rentals, members participated in UNC-TV telethon fund raiser, sponsored basketball program at Garner "Y", preparing for Lake Wheeler Regatta in July.

Roanoke Rapids...Sponsored NBA 2 ball tournament for 30 youth, and 3 on 3 tourney for 130 youth, had a successful "stew" sale - (I presume Brunswick Stew), ran concession stands at SWAC basketball tourney, helped at concessions in wheel chair Basketball tourney, held Tri-Star program for 18 youth, plans for T-Ball program underway.

Rocky Mount... Recognized area youth at Youth Appreciation Dinner, held Tri-Star in April in Nashville, another planned in Rocky Mount in May, selling tickets at Nashville Blooming Festival in May, currently selling raffle tickets for 25" color TV- any takers?

Washington...469 children on 37 teams signed up for soccer. First game and a bar-b-que was held on March 3rd, the club maintains a "chuck wagon" at the games, Youth Appreciation Award Scholarship program is scheduled for May 1.

"In my search for rainbows end, I found not gold, but you, my friend"

Whiteville...Youth Appreciation Program honored 12 outstanding students from area schools, members worked hard to get the ballpark ready for opening day on April 21. The ball field is now known as "Optimist Memorial Field", members held the Annual Easter egg hunt at Whiteville Primary School.

Wilmington...The club sponsored two boys in the Jr. World Golf Tournament, the Wilmington Club wants to remind everyone to visit the Country Store at Boy's and Girl's Homes during the District Meeting.

Wilson Evening...Members conducted the Annual Wilson District Cub Scout Pinewood Derby, participated in the Hot Stove Baseball Banquet, 50 members and guests enjoyed a holiday party at the Rudy Theater in Selma, members judged the annual 4H animal show and awarded trophies, conducted a successful NOW program. Current projects: Adopt-A- Highway, Tri-Star Sports, Gun Safety, and Little League Baseball.

Winter Park...Members took 3 boys from Boy's and Girl's Homes on a shopping trip, a coat drive collected 252 coats for the Salvation Army, the club is working with the NC Food Bank on its current food drive, the Miss Wilmington Scholarship Pageant was held on March 3rd, over 300 girls are enrolled in their girl's softball program.

Youngsville...A raffle for a truck, TV, and other prizes was held as a fundraiser, the club is appreciative of the concession trailer given to them by the North Raleigh Club, a donation of \$750 was made to the accelerated reader program at Youngsville Elementary School, several members are playing softball in the Wake Forest League.

***Note:** I want to thank club bulletin editors for the great job they are doing getting out bulletins, and for keeping me on their mailing list. Item of importance to bulletin editors and district officers: Please do not send me any items on the Internet that need to be downloaded. Everything comes out encoded and unreadable. Hard copies I can read!

Ever Wonder Why...

**...people in the public eye are said to be
“in the limelight”?**

Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighting houses and stage lighting by burning a cylinder of lime in an oxyhydrogen flame that produced a brilliant light. In the theater, performers on stage “in the limelight” were seen by the audience to be the center of attention.

REMEMBER 3RD DISTRICT MEETING - MAY 4-5

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