



Happenings

The Bulletin of the North Carolina East District
of Optimist International



Carey Foster, *Governor*

April 2002

F. Carllyle Teague, *Editor*

A message from the Governor . . .

Dear fellow Optimists:

I have been to several zone meetings and read many of your news letters and have heard of many great projects that are going on in your communities for the kids. It just goes to show that "Attitude makes a difference for the kids." Keep up the good work.

I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend the 3rd quarter district meeting in Kill Devil Hills. The Ramada Inn has promised good weather and rates (\$83) for the weekend of May 17-18. Bring the family and stay the whole weekend. We will also have our district oratorical contest that weekend and the 12 speakers would really appreciate your support by being there to hear them speak. The essay contest winner has also been invited to read the winning essay at the luncheon.

We will also be electing Lt. Governors for next year at this meeting. Most zones have a nominee, but be there to give them your support. Remember the new zone structure will go into effect in October. Rocky Mount and Roanoke Rapids will move to Zone 5, and Wilson will move to Zone 4.

I would also encourage each of you to read the latest Optimist Magazine dealing with the organizational structure. One of the main changes will be phasing out the current dues structure and charging an affiliate fee to be a part of OI. This would mean that clubs could do fund raisers to support OI and reduce or eliminate dues. I assume that districts may be able to do the same thing. Please talk this over with your club members. It will be voted on at the International Convention in Indianapolis.

Our district convention will be held at Atlantic Beach August 15 - 18. All president elects, secretary elects, and Lt. Governor-elects will receive training on that Friday and Saturday. The current executive board will meet Friday and the regular board meeting will take place on Saturday. The golf tournament will be held on Thursday, followed by a dinner cruise. Friday night we will have a womanless beauty pageant fund raiser for the Boys and Girls Homes of NC. The Old Timers Breakfast, and the Governor's Banquet and Ball will be on Saturday.

If we can commit to 40 people for the dinner cruise, then we can have the boat to ourselves. If you could bring your check to the 3rd quarter meeting, we could get an idea as to how many people we may have, and we could reserve the boat early.

Don't forget to have your club elections and turn in your officer elect report by May 20th.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the third quarter district meeting. Everyone should have received their information by now, so let me or Secretary Roy Barnes know if you have not received your hotel and registration packet.

Have a Great Day!

Carey

KILL DEVIL HILLS WILL HOST SPRING BOARD MEETING

The North Carolina East District's Third Quarter Board Meeting will be held May 16-18, 2002 at the Ramada Inn Nags Head Beach at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.

The meeting marks a new direction for the district for a board meeting to be held on this part of the North Carolina coast.

During the Saturday morning business meeting Lt. Governors will be elected for 2002-2003. In addition to the district's third quarter business, the meeting will include the 2002 District Oratorical Contest. The business meeting and the Oratorical Contest will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The winners will be recognized at the Saturday luncheon.

All district Optimists are urged to travel to Nags Head on Friday in time for the group dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Carolina Seafood Restaurant on Highway 12. The quarterly Executive Committee meeting will be held on Friday night at the hotel, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Hotel reservations should be made by calling the Ramada Inn at 1-800-635-1824.

NC East District Essay Winner Is Announced

I want to thank the clubs that participated in this year's essay contest. We had twenty seven entries for District judging. According to the judges, we had a lot of good essays and the judging process was difficult.

The NC East District winner of the 2001-2002 Essay Contest was submitted by the Elizabethtown Optimist Club, **Ray Britt**, Essay Chairman. This year's winner is **Crystal Dyer**, a junior at East Bladen High School. She has been invited to attend our third quarter district meeting luncheon on May 18, 2002 to be recognized as our District winner. She will read her essay at this time.

Crystal's essay has been forwarded to Optimist International for judging in the International contest. We wish her good luck in this competition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CRYSTAL AND THE MEMBERS OF THE **ELIZABETHTOWN OPTIMIST CLUB!**

Ed Taylor, District Essay Chairman

OPTIMIST FOUNDATION UPDATE

By **William O. Mills**, District OI Foundation Chair

As of March 31, 2002, our district ranked 21st in dollars donated and 7th in per member contributions. Thanks to the 17 clubs and members that have contributed \$ 10,386 this year. We still have a way go o exceed last year. We need the other 19 clubs in the district to help push us over the top.

Clubs and Members are encouraged to bring their check to the May meeting in Kill Devil Hills on May 17 and 18. If you need more information on the Foundation, call **William O. Mills**, 252-946-8989, or e-mail mwomills@coastalnet.com.

Congratulations . . .

. . . **To** Zone 6 for another successful fundraiser for WUNC-TV's Festival 2002. During their 4 hour shift on March 17, 2002, \$ 81,000 was pledged. More than 30 Optimists from the zone participated. The **Chapel Hill** Club led the effort.

Club Happenings . . .

Club Happenings are activities and projects reported in the various newsletters from clubs across the district. To be sure your club is represented here, send each issue of your club newsletter to me, District Bulletin Editor, **F. Carlyle Teague**, 5208 Doncaster Court, Raleigh, NC 28612 or at e-mail, **carlylet@touchnc.net**. (Projects listed in no way reflect the only activities of the club.)

Chapel Hill has conducted an oratorical contest and their scholarship program; **Wilson Evening** supported the 4-H Livestock Show at the Wilson County Fair Grounds, conducted the Pinewood Derby for 150 Cub Scouts and, incidentally, have the best looking bulletin in the district, thanks to Wayne Sidelinger's digital color photos; **Rocky Mount Evening** and **Rocky Mount Breakfast** jointly held a Youth Appreciation Dinner; **Goldsboro** held track and field days for Special Olympics, Tri-Star Baseball and a "NOW" program.

Elizabethtown conducted the Oratorical and Essay Contests; **Whiteville** had their annual Easter Egg Hunt; **Wilmington** members are repairing the pool table at the Optimist Cottage at Boys and Girls Homes; **Roanoke Rapids** sponsored the Striving For Excellence anti-drug program, had 150 kids in Tri-Star Basketball has T-Ball and the Essay Contest; **Raleigh** has announced that they will not conduct a Tar Heel Regatta this year, conducted Essay and Oratorical Contests and is planning a Safety on Wheels Day and Fishing at Optimist Farm; **North Raleigh** has taken a group of local kids to a Mudcats baseball game; **Washington** has presented scholarships to youth in their community and recognition to the Beaufort County volunteer firemen.

NC EAST DISTRICT JUNIOR GOLF SET JUNE 11-12 IN GOLDSBORO

The North Carolina East District's 2002 Junior Golf Championship Tournament will be held June 11-12 at the Lane Tree Golf Club in Goldsboro. Tee times each day will begin at 8:00 a.m.

Headquarters and accommodations for the tournament will be at the Quality Inn & Suites on the US Highway 70 Bypass in Goldsboro.

The tournament is open to boys and girls in four age groups, 16-18, 14-15, 12-13 and 10-11. Individual clubs in the district may nominate candidates to be entered in the District contest. The entry fee is \$ 100 per golfer, with an entry deadline of **May 20, 2002**.

Winners of the NC East tournament will win free trips to represent the district in the Optimist International Championship Tournament which will be held at the PGA National Resort and Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Tournament and entry details are available from district chairman **Jerry Medlin**, (919) 870-0234 or email **jmedlin1@bellsouth.net**.

Is the next Tiger Woods sitting back in your community waiting to be discovered?

Select a Junior golfer today for the district contest.

Membership: It Takes Time

By **Yancey Hines**, District Membership Chair

"Time may be money, but the best thing parents can spend on their children is not money, but time."

Everyone knows that Optimists serve children and that more Optimists can serve more children. More Optimists = better children. Better children = a better community. Better communities = a better life for everyone.

Sometimes we do it one child at a time. What? Make a difference for the children. Sometimes we do it one team at a time; one group at a time; one class at a time; and even one school at a time. All we need is time to make a difference for kids.

But can't you take the time to recruit just one more Optimist? How long does it take? Five, ten, fifteen minutes? A minute TO THINK of someone who would "fit" into an important project. Another minute TO PLAN how to contact this person. A few minutes TO TALK on the phone or at church or anywhere. Thirty seconds TO INVITE him or her to project or a meeting. Two minutes TO FOLLOW-UP with a reminder of the event. And in NO TIME, a new Optimist.

Go ahead. Take a few minutes to make a difference for the kids, and who knows, you may make a friend for a LIFE.

Officer Elect Forms Are Due May 20 !!!!

Officer elect forms are critical communications links for next year's leadership. Be sure your club's report is in St. Louis by May 20.