



Happenings

The Bulletin of the North Carolina East District



Carey Foster, *Governor*

July 2002

F. Carl yle Teague, *Editor*

A Message From The Governor . . .

Dear fellow Optimists:

We had a very good time at the International Convention in Indiana. We had 25 members and guests who attended and participated in the workshops and training for new officers.

Several major items were voted on. The one that was of most concern was the proposed affiliation fee. It was defeated soundly, by the delegates. Thanks to all of you who supported the defeat of this proposal.

The other item was flexible funding for club dues. This item passed. In essence, each club will be able to continue to charge dues as they have previously, or use fund raisers to help pay part or all of the members dues. It was suggested that clubs may use service to reduce the dues. This will be explained in more detail at the district convention in August.

The other major item passed was the change in board structure to have rotating 2 year terms, and remove vice presidents from the board to give them more time to concentrate on the clubs in their district. This is a cost saving measure, as well as one supported by most past vice presidents.

OI has also adopted the Childhood Cancer Campaign as our major overall project as an International group, much like the Lions support eye research. Clubs, of course, can choose whether or not to participate, or how they plan to. A representative will be at our October district meeting. It would be great if clubs could check to see what is available in their area and try some things out before then. Points will be available on the 4th quarter A & A for those who do.

Remember to invite a friend to your next club meeting and check into areas that are not served by an Optimist club. There will be incentive offered at the district convention for those bringing in new clubs and members. Don't forget the hotel deadline for registration is past but there may still be rooms available. Convention registration deadline is August 8th.

Keep up the good work and remember that "**Attitude makes a difference with the kids**".

Have a Great Day!

Carey

ATLANTIC BEACH WILL BE SITE OF AUGUST CONVENTION

Final plans are in place for the 2002 North Carolina East District Convention to be held August 15-18, 2002 at the Sheraton Hotel at Atlantic Beach.

Worth Starling, past District Governor and current District Convention Chairman, reports that an exciting series of events is planned with all members of the family in mind. Special activities are planned for the youth and spouses will find a lot to do in the area. The beach is always a great meeting destination. This has proven to be a very popular convention site.

Beginning with the annual Boys and Girls Homes Golf Benefit on Thursday, August 15, the convention will continue through the family breakfast on Sunday morning.

The golf benefit will be played at the Bogue Banks Country Club near the Sheraton Hotel. The other activity on Thursday will be the Dutch dinner at D. J.'s Restaurant, across the street from the hotel.

Friday events will include the Executive Board meeting on Friday morning, officer-elect training in the afternoon and a woman-less beauty pageant on Friday night.

Saturday will be equally busy with the 7:30 a.m. Old Timers' Breakfast, the district board meeting beginning at 8:45 a.m. and additional officer training in the afternoon.

The highlight of the week end will be the Governor's Reception, Banquet and Ball, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday night.

All current club officers and officers-elect are urged to attend the convention. It is especially valuable for future officers to take advantage of the training to prepare for the 2002-2003 club year.

Ben Spradley, past Governor, will lead the week end training. Faculty will include current and past district leaders who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm which will be so critical for ending this year on a high note and getting next year off to a good start.

It is getting late, but Convention registration can still be sent to Wayne Sidelinger, 1104 Windemere Drive NW, Wilson, NC 27896. It also may still be possible the hotel will still have rooms available. Give the hotel a call, 1-800-624-8875 or (252) 240-1155.

Golfers should contact Max Stephenson, (252) 757-3262, 897 Maple Ridge Road, Greenville, NC 27858 to get your name in the pot.

Also, Max asks each club participating to supply at least one prize suitable as a golf award or door prize. Just plan to bring it with you when you come to Atlantic Beach.

OPTIMIST FOUNDATION UPDATE

By William O. Mills, District OI Foundation Chair

JUST A REMINDER: CLUBS, PLEASE BRING THE RIFFLE TICKET STUBS AND MONEY TO THE CONVENTION.

THE TV DRAWING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE CONVENTION. FOR THIS TO BE THE BEST YEAR EVER IN FOUNDATIONS DONATIONS FROM THE DISTRICT, WE NEED ANOTHER \$4,000. WE NEED ALL CLUBS TO STEP FORWARD AND MAKE A DONATION THIS YEAR. WE COULD SET ANOTHER RECORD IF WE HAVE 100% PARTICIPATION.

FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS COME BACK TO US THROUGH THE MANY OPTIMIST PROGRAMS FUNDED BY THE FOUNDATION.

WILLIAM O. MILLS
District OI Foundation Chairman

EVERY ONE IS URGED TO WIND UP 5 BY 12

Sandy Cyphers-Bohn, governor elect and District Boys and Girls Homes chair, urges everyone to sign up for, or complete their 5x12 club commitment to the Optimist Foundation at Boys and Girls Homes. We are well on the way to our \$1 million goal and need to finish it out.

District convention will be a good time to do your part by bringing your check.

Club Happenings . . .

Club Happenings are activities and projects reported in the various newsletters from clubs across the district.

Chapel Hill is still selling concessions at the Durham Bulls ball games and are taking kids to enjoy the games; **Wilson Evening** conducted the walking contest for Special Olympics; **Rocky Mount Evening** conducted Tri-Star Baseball and participated in Project Graduation, providing a drug and alcohol-free graduation party; **Goldsboro** is busy with helping build a Habitat house, and held Family Day At The Park (and Billy Edgerton is giving Wayne Sidelinger a run for his color photograph money with their bulletin).

Elizabethtown conducted Child ID and Law Enforcement programs; **Whiteville** had a successful baseball season and sponsored a district tournament; **Wilmington** had Les Craft as a special speaker; **Roanoke Rapids** hosted the basketball program for the Eastern Region State Games and awarded three scholarships; **The Optimist Club of Raleigh** held a successful golf tournament ; **North Raleigh** members are still active working the concessions at Alltel Pavilion at Walnut Creek.

See You In
Atlantic Beach
August 15-18, 2002
NC East
District
Convention

Junior Golf Contest Was Real Success

The 2002 North Carolina East OIJGC winner was Chris Jones, sponsored by Dinner Raleigh, Runner-up Chris Jarman, was sponsored by Winter Park, Wilmington, Second Runner-up was Andrew Byrd, sponsored by Henderson.

Dustin Laney got a bye to this year's International Tournament by finishing 3rd last year. Chris Jarman could not go to the Tournament in Florida , so Greg Parker, as Third Runner-up, sponsored by Chapel Hill, will be going to the OIJGC International Tournament in Florida.

Everyone can follow the progress of our Golfers on the WEB SITE , www.optimist.org. They North Carolina East participants will be in Florida from July 23rd to July 28th. We wish them the best of luck.

Jerry Medlin

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Membership

25 Flags – 25 Countries! Are you ready to stand and salute new members?

N. C. East was well represented at the July OI International Convention in Indianapolis.

The opening ceremony in Indianapolis featured the posting of the 25 flags for the 25 countries represented in Optimist International! What a wonderful sight! In a world so susceptible to gloom and doom, it is so reassuring that the principles and deeds of Optimism are spreading across Mexico, the West Indies, Canada, Africa, England, France and other parts of Europe, as well as all across America.

Why the steady international growth of Optimist membership? Because Optimism makes a difference with kids in all languages and in all lands. We build, we teach, and we make our communities and our countries a much better. Isn't it a great satisfaction to belong to such an organization?

Yet, in N. C. East, we have yet to reach our membership goals for the year. We can do it. With three months left in the Optimist year, just think how great it would be if each club brought in AT LEAST three new members. Our strength is in our membership – all over the world, but you and I feel it mostly in our own clubs.

More hands carry the load lighter; more brains do the work more effectively; and more members make a greater difference for the kids. All Clubs – set your goals for at least three more members for the last three months of the Optimist year. A member-a-month for three months. Each new member serves 33 more kids. Let's run that goal up the Optimist Flagpole and salute it!

Yancey Hines, Membership Chair

In Memoriam

All of the North Carolina East District was saddened by the death of Charlie Osborne. Charlie was a past president of the North Raleigh Optimist Club and served as Lt. Governor of Zone 6 in 1999-2000. He was also an active supporter of Boys and Girls Homes and virtually every project the North Raleigh club conducted while he was a member.

First Class Mail