



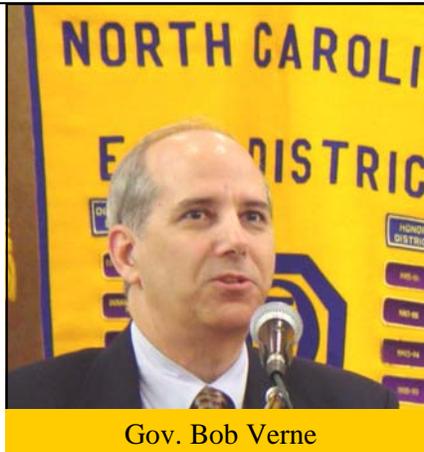
# North Carolina East OPTIMIST NEWS



Vol 2, Issue 4, August, 2004

Dear Optimists,

In about 8 weeks 2003-2004 Optimist year will be over. Soon a new set of Club and District officers will begin their leadership year. Now is the time to ask ourselves, "Have I done all that I could to help the kids in our area? Have I recruited new members to strengthen my Club? Have I helped to extend the benefits of Optimism and Optimist programs to a new area by participating in building a new Optimist Club?" It's not too late for us to start to help our communities, our Clubs and our District grow in their ability to help our kids. Even if the work won't be completed this Optimist year, at least we must start it. The kids will be the



Gov. Bob Verne

beneficiary of your efforts. Their needs won't end on September 30th. So, let's renew our efforts now!

One way to benefit your Club and your District, build your Optimist skills and have a lot of fun in the process is to take part in the 2004 NC East District Convention on August 20-22 in Atlantic Beach. Convention Chairman William Mills and his committee have been working hard to make this the best convention in memory. Highlights will be guest speaker Michael Angelo Caruso teaching a leadership workshop on Proactive Communications and The Imitations playing their distinctive brand of beach and Motown songs at the Governor's

Ball.

I'd like to close, by thanking you for the opportunity to be your District Governor this year. It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve the NC East District and the kids within it in this way. I have traveled thousands of miles to visit Club meetings, Zone meetings and service projects this year all over the District. More importantly, I have had the chance to work with some wonderful Optimists and to share in their programs that help the kids and their communities. I have also had the privilege of working with an excellent District leadership team. They have worked very hard this year to help you succeed in your mission to help the kids. Thanks for a great year!

Yours in Optimism  
Bob Verne  
Governor 2003-2004



Governor Bob Verne and OI Certified trainer/OI Rep, Jack Creswell, discuss procedures during dinner on Friday night at the 3rd Quarterly District Board Meeting. Dinner was held at Gardner's Bar-B-Que in Rocky Mount. Jack officiated at a training seminar Saturday afternoon.

## About Michael Angelo Caruso



Mr. Caruso is a dynamic speaker who has made over 1,000 presentations to clients all over the world. He has delivered programs in 49 of the 50 states and has presented in Africa and the Middle East. His clients include **Nortel Networks, Rayovac, the United States Navy, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the National BIG R Institutes of Health, the Hallmark Greeting Card Company and Optimist International**. Michael is the author of "5 Cool Ideas for Better Working, Living & Feeling," the audio book, "Dear Michael Angelo -- A Father's Life Letters to His Son" and the booklet "Hmmm...Little Ideas With Results."

### About the Workshop: *The Secrets of Pro-Active Communication*

**Who will benefit:** Anyone with a job or a family.

### Educational objectives:

1. Learn how signals can help improve your relationships with people
2. Learn to think 5 moves ahead and prevent problems before they occur
3. Learn a technique called "scripting" that will allow you to get your way without taking advan-

tage of others

**Program highlights (speaking, listening, planning ahead):**

Professional development is also personal development. This lively program teaches participants the value of anticipatory communication, which can be so helpful at work and at home. The program has funny, interactive exercises that help attendees sharpen their awareness of verbal and non-verbal signals. Non-verbal signals involve the science of neuro-linguistic programming, which we can use to better-read people. Examples of non-verbal signals include eye movement, a hand fluttering to a face and how a person responds to confrontation. These signals can make or break a business deal. On a personal note, how you interpret the words we use and the space between the words can save lots of time during a domestic squabble.

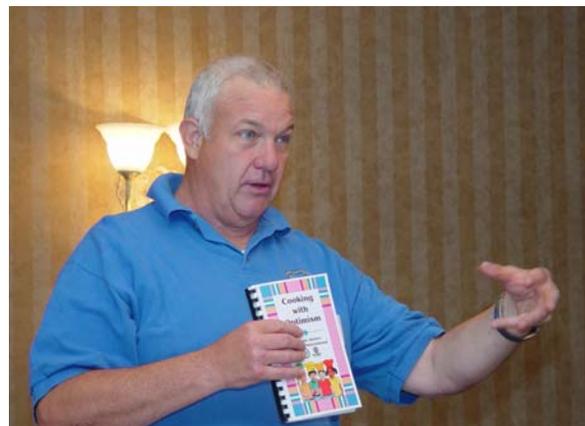
Most people approach life the way they play checkers, thinking only one move ahead. The rest of us communicate proactively, thinking five moves ahead not unlike chess players. Source material for this program includes Stephen Pollan's "Life Scripts – Getting What You Want In Life's Most Challenging Situations," Stephen Pinker's "How the Mind Works," and Michael Angelo Caruso's "Hmms," including the thought-provoking question, "do you believe what people say or what they do?"

This program also provides strategies for improved listening and lots of helpful tips for effective speaking, as found in Michael's book, "5 Cool Ideas for Better Working, Living & Feeling." Pro-active communication

can be used to save money, prevent misunderstandings and develop long-term strategic plans. This is a program everyone will enjoy.

**Also featured:**

- The 15 most powerful words you can use with another person
- Why you can never change a negative person
- 10 things you should never say
- 5 cool ideas for being more persuasive
- How to be in control all the time



Just let everyone know that we are slightly ahead of last year's donations to the OI Foundation, but encourage clubs that have not sent in their checks yet to do so, or bring them to the convention. I will also have the rest of the cook books with me. We have less than 100 left, and I would like to send off the check with each club's amount ASAP, and by the end of September in order for them to receive credit for this year.

Have a Great Day!

Carey Foster  
OIF Chairman

Note from Ellen Foster: Send me your CPA books or bring them to the convention.

### Zone 1

Clubs in Zone 1: Wilmington, Wilmington Supper, Winter Park, Inner City, Masonboro, Myrtle Grove and Cape Fear. **Harry Hale, Lt. Gov.**

**Masonboro:**

**Myrtle Grove:**

**Wilmington Inner City:**

**Cape Fear:**

**Wilmington Supper:**

**Winter Park:**

**Wilmington:** Now meeting at Bob Evans Restaurant. Donated \$200 to the Mile of Hope.

### Zone 3

Clubs in Zone 3: Goldsboro, Washington, Greenville, Princeton and Carteret. **Gary Pender, Lt. Gov.**

**Greenville:** Awarded 3 \$500 scholarships to seniors; Held an Adopt-A-Street cleanup; Received a \$1000 grant from Wal-Mart; Held Little League Baseball picnic; Ruffled two Gas Grills that were donated by Weal-Mart and Lowe's; Donated breakfast items to the Ronald McDonald House.

**Goldsboro:**

**Washington:**

**Carteret:**

**Grifton:** Scheduling a Arrest-A-Thorn for a fund raiser; Will hold a yard sale in September. Will sponsor the Summer Reading Program at the Grifton Public Library. Sponsored 3 Junior Golfers to the District Golf Tournament.

### Zone 5

Clubs in Zone 5: Henderson, Roxboro, Youngsville, Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount Evening, Nashville, Rocky Mount Breakfast and Northampton County.

**Ed Taylor, Lt. Governor.**

**Roanoke Rapids:** Sponsored Picnic for coaches of Optimists sports; Hosted the 4th quarter Zone meeting.

**Nashville:** Participate in Blooming Festival

**Youngsville:**

**RM Breakfast:** Sponsored Project Graduation; Sponsored this years winner in District Oratorical Contest.

**Henderson:** Operate Concession stand at football games; Sponsor soccer games; Held Bike Safety Rodeo; Held Respect for Law Day.

**Rocky Mount Evening:** Sponsored Tri Star Baseball; Participated in the Blooming Festival in Nashville.

### Zone 2

Clubs in Zone 2: Whiteville, Elizabethtown, Laurinburg, Spring Lake and South Brunswick Island. **Mark Smith, Lt. Gov.**

**Laurinburg : Elizabethtown :**

**Whiteville : South Brunswick Island:**

**Spring Lake:**

### Zone 4

Clubs in Zone 4: Golden Circle, Wilson Evening, Wilson Breakfast, Tarboro and Edenton -Chowan. **Allen Stallings, Lt. Gov.**

**Wilson Evening: Golden Circle:**

**Edenton: Wilson Breakfast: Tarboro:**

### Zone 6

Clubs in Zone 6: Raleigh, Raleigh Dinner, North Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Southeast Raleigh and Garner. **Trish Verne, Lt. Gov.**

**North Raleigh:** Jerry Medlin is undergoing medical treatment in Atlanta; Held a yard sale; Served meals at Ronald McDonald House; Sponsored 3 boy and 2 girls in the District Junior Golf;

**Chapel Hill:** Raised over \$4000 for Cancer Campaign; Sponsored Fishing Derby; Answered telephone for the UNC-TV money raiser; Held NOW membership meeting.

**Raleigh:** Sponsored annual Golf Tournament; Participated in Special Olympics; Sponsored Take A Kid Fishing; Held Bike Safety Program Joyce Peters and Linda Davenport attended the OI Convention in St. Louis; Raleigh Member Gary Turner has been nominated for the office of Governor Elect, NCE District.

**Southeast Raleigh :**

**Raleigh Dinner:**

**Garner:**

No report from Lt. Governors on Optimist clubs that show no activity.

A big city lawyer went duck hunting in rural Texas.

He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence.

As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing.

The litigator responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here"

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial attorneys in the United States and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own.

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we settle disputes in Texas. We settle small disagreements like this with the "Three Kick Rule." The lawyer asked, "What is the Three Kick Rule?"

The Farmer replied, "Well, because the dispute occurs on my land, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times and so on back and forth until someone gives up."

The attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the attorney. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy steel toed work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees.

His second kick to the midriff sent the lawyer's last meal gushing from his mouth.

The lawyer was on all fours when the

farmer's third kick to his rear end sent him face-first into a fresh cow pie.

The lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet.

Wiping his face with the arm of his jacket, he said, "Okay, now it's my turn."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Naw, I give up. You can have the duck".

#### THE 5 STAGES OF A FEMALE'S LIFE

>

1. To Grow Up
  2. To Fill Out
  3. To Slim Down
  4. To Hold It In
- AND
5. To hell with it.

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Note: I would like to receive a copy of every 'Club Brochure' in the NCE District. Many clubs have them and I would like to set up a scrapbook to display them at meetings.

## Achievement and Awards

Don Harritan  
Chairman



2nd Quarter winners

### Top Ten Clubs

1. Whiteville
2. Goldsboro
3. Henderson
4. Greenville
5. Raleigh
6. Rocky Mount Evening
7. Chapel Hill
8. Roanoke Rapids
9. Winter Park
10. Wilson Evening

### Top 3 Lt. Governors

1. Zone 3 Gary Pender
2. Zone 2 Mark Smith
3. Zone 5 Ed Taylor

### Top 2 Clubs From Each Zone

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Zone 1 | 1. Winter Park<br>2. Cape Fear         |
| Zone 2 | 1. Whiteville<br>2. Elizabethtown      |
| Zone 3 | 1. Goldsboro<br>2. Greenville          |
| Zone 4 | 1. Wilson Evening<br>2. Chowan-Edenton |
| Zone 5 | 1. Henderson<br>2. Rocky Mount Evening |
| Zone 6 | 1. Raleigh<br>2. Chapel Hill           |

## LAST CHANCE FOR A HEALTHY CLUB HABIT

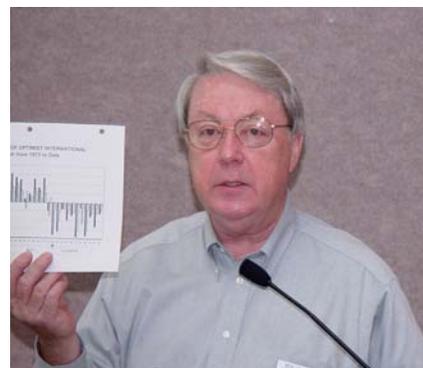
Only two months are left in our current Optimist Year. Has your Club ADDED A PLUS ONE MEMBER this year? This is the minimum requirement to stay healthy, just a Plus One Additional Member over a twelve month period. Seems reasonably easy doesn't it, but then why don't we just do it? Could it be a habit problem? Clubs must drop members from time to time for various reasons, a part of the healthy club process. But if you drop more than you add, it soon becomes a habit hard to break. Sooner or later your club will be in trouble for lack of working members and pure financial survival!

Over the next month, try to make a NEW HEALTHY HABIT in your Club by ASKING MORE persons to join. Share the Joy of Optimism in your Community with more youth. Now that would be healthy, wouldn't it?

We all need more health and good habits in our clubs. New Members would go a long way to improve many club problems. ASK someone NOW, you may just be glad you did!

Best Healthy Optimist Habits to you,

Ben Spradley, Membership Chairman.



**Ben Spradley District  
Membership Chairman**



For those who will be in town on Thursday evening and will not be attending the Past Governors Association dinner, Denard and Kay Harris will be hosting a cook out starting at 7:00PM at the Portside Marina, 209 Arendell St., Morehead City. After the meal, Denard will provide boat rides around the Intracoastal Waterway. This will be a nice affair. All are invited.



**District Convention 2004  
August 19-22  
Sheraton Hotel,  
Atlantic Beach, NC**

**William Mills,  
Convention  
Chairman**



All plans for the convention have been finalized and everything is ready for a weekend of Optimist meetings, events and lots of fun.

From Thursday afternoon at the golf course through Sunday morning breakfast we have plans to make it an eventful long weekend. On Thursday night, after the golf tournament, Denard & Kay Harris have invited everyone to the Portside Marina for a cookout and Morehead City Harbor boat ride.

I'll see you at Atlantic Beach.

Quotes from Federal government employee  
performance evaluations

- "I would not allow this employee to breed."
- "This employee has reached rock bottom and started to dig."
- "When she opens her mouth it appears to only change feet."
- "He is depriving a village of an idiot."
- "He sets low personal standards and fails to achieve them."
- "When her IQ reaches fifty, she should sell."
- "...a prime candidate for natural de-selection."
- "If he were any more stupid he would have to be watered twice a week."
- "If you gave him a penny for his thoughts, you would get change back."

## OI Convention pictures, St. Louis, MO. July 2004



Past Governor Sandy Cyphers is being introduced on stage by Past President Bill Teague, for achieving Distinguished Governor status for year 2002-03



Governor Bob Verne and Trish are introduced and recognized as governors currently in office by President Dwaine Sievers and First Lady Suzie Sievers



A few of the 20 plus members to attend the OI Convention partially fill a table during the Monday night entertainment. From left, Trish and Bob Verne, Gary Turner, Joyce Peters, Linda Davenport, Alan Ludlum and Wanda Lamm with back toward camera.

## Essay Contest

Our 1st place NCE District Essay Winner Sarah Ladd did not win the International Contest. Eleven of the thirteen district contestants gave us permission to post their essay on the website so all of you can read them. Hope you all will participate in the Essay Contest this upcoming Optimist year. Thanks for your support this year.



### International Essay Contest Winners are:

**1st place** winner was Catherine Jasmin from the Quebec West District and received \$5,650 college scholarship, trip to convention and plaque

**2nd place** winner was Emilie Allard from the Central Quebec District and received \$3,650 college scholarship and plaque

**3rd place** winner was Hannah Bohrtz from Wisconsin North-Upper Michigan District and received a \$2,640 college scholarship and plaque.

Charlene Edwards  
District Essay Chair

The Essays of the 1st 2nd and 3rd place winners in the North Carolina East District Contest are being reproduced in this bulletin.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner/Brittany Hoal sponsored by Raleigh Dinner (Picture not Available)

#### “Being the Best I Can Be” (492 words)

In today’s world, it is a hard to be one’s best while there are so many obstacles pulling you down. However, it is not impossible and it is vital that everyone tries his/her hardest to improve his/her environment. I will strive to be the best I can be in the society I live so that through my example others will work towards improvement too. I will work in areas that I feel affect people the most so I may influence them more. Three main categories I notice that affect people most are citizenship, family life and religion. These are three areas in which I will drive for growth.

I do not think people take being a dedicated citizen seriously. However, it is vital to be devoted to our country and labor towards making it a better place to live. Some people feel the only way to contribute to our country is to go overseas and fight wars, but I will be a better citizen by helping in my community. I can help by cleaning areas that have been dirtied due to peoples’ negligence or I can serve at places that assist the needy. By being a better citizen I will improve my society.

Another place in which I can be my best is my home. It is often the case that a home is not the loving and friendly place it should be. I can prevent this in my house by obeying the biblical commandment “Honor thy father and mother.” If I show my parents respect, they will return the gesture. I can also strive to get along with my siblings and treat them lovingly. These two things will help in having a peaceful place in which to live as well as caring people to live. It is important to have a stable household because a person’s home life shapes the person they become and how they deal with people, which are essential factors in society.

Finally, I will help in society by being a devout Christian. Religion is key in society because what you believe affects what you think or do. Many people have been led astray by lies of various religions and need someone to reach out to them with God's Word and what it can do in their lives. I can witness to others by how I treat them and how I talk to them. If I treat them mean or sound insincere when I talk to them, they will not listen to me. However, if I treat them as Christ would and talk to them kindly, they will see there is something special in me and will want it.

With discipline and perseverance I will be the best I can be in my society. By helping as a citizen, family member and Christian, I will be able to influence those around me to change themselves and together we will work to make our society all it can be.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner/David Settle sponsored by Whiteville Club

“Being The Best I Can Be”

Robert Browning once stated, “My business is not to remake myself but to make the absolute best of what God has made.” This great poet is indicating that the thousands of choices we make daily determine our lives. Countless times during our life times we are faced with situations that force us to make a choice between doing the right thing or the wrong thing, Since there is a neutral, or middle ground, we many times are drawn to this choice because it is less threatening or specific. I am aware that I will never be perfect, but I do strive each day to be better than I was the previous day by treating others in a more benevolent way, breaking bad habits, and growing spiritually and personally.



As a child, I was taught to appreciate diversity in our society. President Jimmy Carter stated: “America is not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic displaying different people, beliefs, yearnings, hopes, and dreams.” Numerous times I have encountered baleful people who have treated me poorly; yet, I have made it a point to remember that two wrongs don't make one right. Maybe I am a bit old fashioned, but I derive unexplainable joy from holding the door open for older people, helping people less fortunate than I, and going out of my way to help make someone else's day a bit brighter. I am cognizant of the fact that I cannot help everyone, but as Dr. Loretta Scott remarked, “Everyone can help someone.”

Furthermore, I strive to better myself by breaking my bad habit of procrastinating. Benjamin Franklin told us, “Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.” I need to display his venerable words on my refrigerator door because many times I tell myself that I can defer my work because I will have more time, energy, and desire another day. Sound familiar? Over the years I have ascertained that when I work diligently in a timely fashion my end product is more impressive and complete. I now realize that waiting is like quicksand; it will suffocate my best!

Finally, I am striving to grow spiritually and personally. I was reared in a Christian home. My parents taught me about God and what God expects out of me. By attending church on a regular basis, I am cultivating a beautiful bond with God. Through this relation-

ship, I am beginning to understand that He has high expectations for me. My ultimate desire is to measure up and make Him proud.

In closing, I know as Robert Browning stated that I am unable to remake myself; however, I can make choices, which will change my life forever. If I give of my time and heart, I will discover my best!

1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner/Sarah Ladd sponsored by Wilson Golden Circle

## **BEING THE BEST I CAN BE**

431 words

In the American society, self-betterment is one of the greatest and most highly valued achievements possible. Being able to work hard to make something of oneself is the “American Dream.” In school, children are taught to try to make better grades than they did last time. Those with high-paying jobs and expensive things are often considered to be the highest achievers and the most worthy of admiration and respect. This same message that, “happiness comes from success” bombards every person countless times daily.

While striving to do one’s best is a noble act, I am afraid that too many people only end up trying to “keep up with the Joneses.” Our culture often projects a narrow- minded definition of “better.” Money, material possessions, and recognition are the most highly valued assets to most Americans. Because of this, so many people go through life feeling like, and even treated as, a failure because they cannot live up to these standards of success. The truth is that God created each individual in a unique and special way. He lovingly gave everyone different talents, abilities, and personalities. Most everyone would agree that we are all different, and yet, amazingly, it is still common practice to idolize certain achievements. I can’t understand why we put such limitations on ourselves! Every person was created for a specific purpose, and there is no shame in that. In fact, we should rejoice in the diversity that the Lord has blessed us with.

“Being the best I can be” is simply a matter of trusting God and following His perfect plan for my life. I don’t need to make a ton of money or get into the best college, as long as I continue to put The Lord first in my life. In striving to accomplish what God has asked me to do with the best of my ability, I find a whole new purpose. It is no longer about how hard *I* work and how talented *I* am, but how well I can throw away my selfishness and let God work *through* me. I realize, also that everyone else’s standards should not apply to me. Doing my best has nothing to do with comparing myself to others. It is personal. I need not worry about how I measure up to all the millionaires and movies stars, but how much I have grown and how well I am following my Savior. Colossians 3:23 says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all you heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” — *that* is the best that I can be.



## District Oratorical Contest



**Roy Barnes,  
District  
Chairman**



Chairman Roy Barnes present winners plaque to Boys Contest Winner, Parateek Singla, Greenville Optimist.

**Congratulations to the 2004 Oratorical Contest winners.** The male winner was Parateek Singla, representing the Greenville Club. The female winner was Anneke Robinson, representing, the Rocky Mount Breakfast Club. Each of these contestants will receive a \$1500 dollar scholarship.

All of those in attendance were treated to “oratorical excellence”. I would like to offer a special thanks to those optimists who helped in securing candidates and in carrying out the contest. My only regret was there could be only two scholarship winners. Certainly the contestants represented themselves, their families and their sponsoring clubs well. In addition to the scholarship winners, contestants included:

Neil Reynolds – Cape Fear  
Clay Brooks – Laurinburg  
Alex Allen – Wilson Evening  
Arthur Motley – Roanoke Rapids  
Lauren Michelle Vadala – Cape Fear  
Kendra Erickson – North Raleigh  
Sarah Rately – Wilson Evening  
Hameka Canady – Goldsboro  
Lindsey Johnson - Whiteville



Chairman Roy Barnes presenting winners plaque to Girls Contest Winner, Anneke Robinson, Rocky Mount Breakfast.

Questions that need answers

Is there ever a day when mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people continue to return to the refrigerator with hopes of finding something new in it?

Why does no plastic garbage bag ever open from the first end you try?

Why do you wash bath towels?  
Are we not supposed to be clean after a bath or shower?

Considering the lint in a dryer, if you kept drying your clothes, would they eventually disappear?



District Oratorical Contest, Girls: Front, from left. Lauren Vadala, Cape Fear; Anneke Robinson, Rocky Mount Breakfast; Back Row, from left. Lindsey Johnson, Whiteville; Sarah Ratley, Wilson Evening; Kendra Erickson, N. Raleigh



District Oratorical Contest, Boys: From left. Kenneth Reynolds, Cape Fear; Partee Singla, Greenville; Clay Brooks, Laurinburg.

**NC East District of Optimist International  
Third Quarter Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, May 8, 2005  
Rocky Mount, North Carolina**

These clubs were represented at the meeting: Wilmington Cape Fear, Wilmington Supper, Wilmington Winter Park, Laurinburg, Whiteville, Goldsboro, Greenville, Washington, Grifton, Wilson Evening, Wilson Golden Circle, Henderson, Roanoke Rapids, Rocky Mount Breakfast, Rocky Mount Evening, Nashville, Chapel Hill, North Raleigh, Raleigh, and Raleigh Dinner, (20)

The people who were guests of our district at the meeting: (1) Bob and Jane Freeman. Bob is the NC West Governor. (2) Jack Creswell, OI Certified Trainer.

These clubs were not represented: Masonboro, Myrtle Grove, Wilmington, Wilmington Inner City, Elizabethtown, South Brunswick Islands, Spring Lake, Carteret, Chowan-Edenton, Tarboro, Wilson Breakfast, Northampton County, Roxboro, Youngsville, Garner, and Southeast Raleigh. (15)



Yancey Hines, Sec/Treas

Governor Bob Verne called the regular meeting of the N. C. East District Board of Directors to order at 8:04 A.M

Bob Freeman, NC West District Governor, offered the Invocation.

Fred Turnage, Mayor of Rocky Mount and a Charter Member of the Rocky Mount Breakfast Optimist Club, gave the Welcome for the meeting.

The Minutes of the Second Quarter Meeting were presented by Yancey Hines. They were accepted as presented pending final annual audit.

The Second Quarter 2003-2004 Financial Report was accepted as presented by Yancey Hines

Governor Bob thanked the clubs of Zone 5 and especially Lt. Governor Ed Taylor for their hospitality and efforts in hosting this district meeting.

Governor Bob next discussed plans for realigning the East and West Districts in order to transfer Orange County from the West to the East District. The Chapel Hill Club is a member of the East District, but, as far as anyone knows, Orange County is still allocated to the NC West District. Governor Bob has discussed the change with NC West Governor Bob Freeman and he has agreed to carry the matter to the leadership of his district. Jackie Young moved a motion to request realignment from Optimist International in time for the change to be voted upon at the Optimist International Convention in July of 2004. Luann Poole seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Carey Foster, Foundation Representative, reported on various opportunities for members to give to the Foundation. He reported that donations to date were ahead of last year. Several clubs presented their gifts to the Foundation.

Jay Brooks representing the NC Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina noted that the institution had now been serving youth for 50 years. Donations were accepted from several clubs.

Don Harritan, Awards and Achievements Chairman, presented the quarterly recognitions for clubs and Lt. Governors. A full summary of these awards will appear in the next NC East Bulletin.

C. A. Tanner, CCC Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting, but Governor Bob Verne and Secretary/Treasurer Yancey Hines spoke on the district efforts in this initiative. Donations were given by several clubs. June has been designated as Childhood Cancer Campaign Month by Optimist International and clubs were requested to sponsor a project to honor this event.

Carlton Baird, OIJGC Chairman, reported on the District's successful tournament and thanked everyone who supported the event. He noted that 67 boys and girls participated in the event and that 18 of that number qualified for the International Champion this summer in Florida.

Ellen Foster, Activities Chairman, requested that clubs submit CPA books by September 30, 2004. She shared an instructional handout on the CPA procedure.

William Mills, Chairman of the District Convention Committee, reported on progress for the August event to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic Beach August 20-22, 2004. The District web site lists all forms and schedules.

Sandy Cyphers, the Candidate Qualifications Chair, reported that there were no candidates yet for Governor-Elect. She urged members to step forward and/or seek out qualified candidates for the position. Future Lt. Governors for Zone 3 and 6 were elected by their respective zones. They are Louwanna Pender (Zone 3) and Gary Turner (Zone 6).

Billy Edgerton, OI Ambassador, invited members to attend this summer's International Convention in St. Louis and next year's convention in Nashville, Tennessee. (Registration materials are available on the OI web site.)

Charlene Edwards, Chair of the Essay Contest, presented scholarship bonds and awards to the first and second place winners in the District contest. The third place winner could not be present at the meeting.

Ben Spradley, Membership Chairman, stressed the importance of bringing in new members on a consistent basis. He presented recognition pins to individuals and to clubs who had brought in a significant number of new members.

District Secretary/Treasurer and Governor-Elect, Yancey Hines, informed members that District dues were being collected quarterly instead of semi-annually because he followed guidelines cited at the OI training last year instead of NC East policy. Next he spoke briefly about the recent Governor-Elect Conference in Quebec and about the OI President Elect, Yves Berthiaume.

Governor Bob Verne offered some closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 with the Creed. The District Oratorical Contest followed the meeting.

Yancey C. Hines  
NC East District Secretary-Treasurer, 2003-2004

# 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.



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