

# North Carolina East OPTIMIST NEWS

Vol. 5 Issue 1 October 2006



2006—2007  
North Carolina East District  
Governor Gary Pender and  
Louwanna



2006—2007  
Optimist International President  
Ronnie Dunn and Wayne



Hello Optimist Friends!

*Welcome to a new year in “Bringing out the Best in Kids.” As you may have heard me say, “this is a year for growth.” There are three “R’s” of membership.*

1. **Reinvent** your club to better suit it’s purposes.
2. **Renew** interest among current inactive and former members of your club.
3. **Recharge** your club’s batteries by recruiting new members.

**Presidents, I encourage you to contact the past members of your clubs and let them know they have been missed and you would like to have them back. Let’s remember that membership growth is the key to the future of Optimist. I have been part of numerous installation banquets and zone meetings so far this year. It is an honor to serve you as Governor of the North Carolina East District this year. Beginning September 18, 2006 and as of November 10, 2006 I have clocked over 4,000 miles on my vehicle. I am having a great time meeting Optimists who I did not know and visiting clubs that I have not visited before.**

**As your Governor, I would like to know about what projects that your club has coming up. If you would please e-mail or call me, I would like to attend and help in any way.**

**Each year Governors have incentives for their members in their districts and here are mine!**

1. **Bring in (1) one member and receive one of specially designed district pins.**
2. **Bring in (3) new members and receive the Optimist Jacket.**
3. **Build (1) JOOI club with 25 members or more and receive \$100.00 to be donated to the individual who starts the club or to the new JOOI Club.**
4. **Build an Optimist Club with 25 charter members or more and receive \$100.00 to be donated to the individual who starts the club or to the new Optimist Club.**

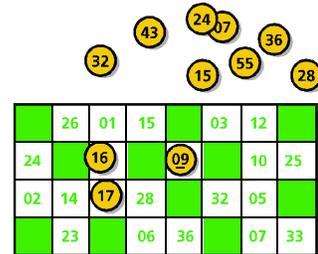
### **So please take my money**

November and December are a time of friends and families coming together and sharing the spirit of joy of the holiday season. It’s a time for giving and sharing. Let our hearts be filled with the joy that comes from the true holiday spirit. Thank you for the giving of yourselves. From my family to yours, we wish you happy holidays.

Yours in Optimism,  
Gary Pender



# OI Foundation Bingo



OI Foundation Chairman  
for this year, **Yancey Hines**, OIF Chairman,

has announced that a **BINGO** game  
will be held Friday night, November  
17th at the Holiday-Inn, Goldsboro.



Probable starting time is 8:30pm, or im-  
mediately after the Executive Board  
Meeting adjourns.

Lots of prizes have been obtained for  
the winners.

Guests are invited to play.  
Registration will not be required for the bingo game.

Players will purchase individual cards.



All proceeds will be donated to  
the OI Foundation program.

Members and clubs are asked to  
donate prizes



North Carolina East Officers for 2006-2007 were installed at the convention. From Left: Governor, Gary Pender; Lt. Gov. Jimmy Moore, Zone 1; Lt. Gov. Ron Riggins, Zone 2; Lt. Gov. Jimmy Lamm, Zone 4; Lt. Gov. Randy Todd, Zone 5; Lt. Gov. Carolyn Mason, Zone 6 and District Secretary Treasurer, Allan Ludlum. Not present for picture was Candy Nichols Lt. Gov. Zone 3. Installing the officers was OI Vice President, Sandy Wooten, in the background.



In the receiving line prior to the banquet were from left: Christine Potter, Gov. Ray Potter, OI Vice President Sandy Wooten, Don Wooten, Potter children, Allan Ludlum, District Secretary/Treasurer; Joan Ludlum; Louwana Pender and Governor Designate Gary Pender.



Dan Durham, Governor Elect for 2006-2007



Dan's Publicity Committee. Keeping it all in the family.



A&A 3rd Quarter Club Leaders: From left; No 1, Raleigh, Carolyn Lackey; No. 2, Golden Circle, Linda Watson; No. 3, Winter Park, Jimmy Moore; No. 4, Wilson Evening, Jimmy Lamm; No. 5, Greenville, Candy Nichols; No.6, Chapel Hill, Carolyn Mason; No.7, Fred Priest, Whiteville; No. 8, Roanoke Rapids, Jim Whitmire; No. 9, North Raleigh, Jerry Medlin and No. 10, Bennie Bass, Cape Fear.



Marie Jordan, left, and Kathy Westbury are all smiles at the convention banquet. Marie is celebrating the loss of 75 pounds. She says “It’s crackers and milk and lots of determination.”



Wayne Sidelinger, right, receives an OI Certificate from Gov. Ray Potter, honoring the Wilson Evening Optimist on their 50th Anniversary.



Whiteville Optimist Club members erected 3 new Optimist road Signs in September. The signs were purchased with donations received in memory of Don Harritan’s father who died in June 2005.



**Bob Verne  
District Oratorical  
Chairman**

The Optimist Oratorical Contest is an important Optimist youth service program operated through the District. In this event we indeed bring out the best in the participants as they prepare for

and give their speeches at the club, zone and district levels.

Here are some particulars for this year's contests.

\* For the 2006-2007 contest, the topic is: **“My Biggest Challenge is...”**

\* The speech must be at least 4 minutes but not over 5 minutes in length.

\* Two \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded, one each to the boy and girl District winners.

\* The names of the zone oratorical contest winners must be provided to me by April 15, 2007. See your Lieutenant Governor to find out when your Zone contest will be held.

\* **\*Important:\*** Also by April 15, 2007, the following three documents for the zone

winners must be provided to me:



1. Copy of the application
2. Copy of the applicant's proof of age (usually a birth certificate). The original is not needed.
3. A typed, double-spaced copy of the speech.

The District oratorical contest will be held on May 5, 2007, at the 3rd quarter District meeting. It is important to contact the schools in your area early so that the schools can get the word out and the participants have time to prepare. In addition to the public schools, be sure to contact private, parochial and charter schools. Also contact the home school network in your area. There is contact information for these groups in this year's district handbook and directory.

If I can help you in any way, please call me at 919-942-4144 (Home) or by email at [rverne@nc.rr.com](mailto:rverne@nc.rr.com).

Regards

Bob Verne  
District Oratorical Contest Chair, 2006-2007

JOOI Advisory Club Agenda  
NCE District  
November 18, 2006  
Holiday Inn Express  
Goldsboro, NC  
8:00 A.M.

Welcome  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Updates from each Zone  
Update on JOOI District Plans  
Membership  
Membership  
Membership  
Adjourn-Optimist Creed

**CPA'S.....WHAT ARE THEY?.....**Not Certified Public Accountants....They are **Community Project Awards** an annual competition that recognizes Clubs for their community service, fund-raising activities. First-place winners of District competition will receive awards at the February 2008 District Awards Luncheon along with being sent to compete on the international-level judging.



Sandy Cyphers Activities Chair

**NOTICE OF CHANGE IN CPA'S FOR 2006/2007.....**

Only two categories: (1) Community Service  
(2) Fund-raising

The Community Service Projects Awards program is intended to:

- (1) Encourage significant community-serving activities
- (2) Allow Optimist International to acquire information on outstanding clubs to share with everyone
- (3) Stimulate membership involvement in meaningful Club activities
- (4) Provide recognition to Clubs for outstanding projects that fulfill the objectives of Optimist International

Official entry book covers are required and should be ordered from Shumsky Enterprises at [www.optimiststuff.com](http://www.optimiststuff.com) or by calling toll-free 1-877-678-2582. The internal paper forms can be downloaded.

Presidents, President Elects and Club Chairmen, this is a wonderful way to show future chairpersons just how a project was done from beginning to end. Please promote CPA's in your clubs and Lt. Governors, please promote them in your Zone.

If you have any questions or would like for me to visit your club or zone please give me a call at 910-799-4867 or 910-367-3295.

Sandy Cyphers, CPA District Chairman

## The Boys and Girls

## Homes of North Caro-

As we embark on another Optimist year with our continued focus on children, we must remember our Optimist Cottage and the children at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina in Lake Waccamaw. 2006-2007 District Governor Gary Pender's theme this year is Optimist & Kids Go Hand in Hand! As North Carolina District East Boys and Girls Homes chairman, I'm encouraging you and your club members to extend your hand to help provide for these children who need our support.

It is my goal that every club in the district will make a contribution this year. Clubs have the opportunity to restrict gifts for operating, maintenance and upkeep of the Optimist Cottage, or any other special needs. Think of what a difference we could make if every club participates!

Individual Optimists have a unique opportunity to become a 5 by 12 member. By making a 60 dollar contribution or 5 dollars a month for 12 months, you are making a difference in the life of a child at Boys and Girls Homes!

Our goal is to sign up at least five 5 by 12 members in each club by our first quarter meeting November 17-18 in Goldsboro. Please extend your hand of Optimism and help us reach our first goal of the year for Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina. Please bring your 5 by 12 contributions to the first quarter meeting in Goldsboro or send them directly to Tom Lamont, Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc., P.O. Box 127, 400 Flemington Drive, Lake Waccamaw, N.C. 28450.

With Christmas coming soon, now is also the time for your club to sponsor a child at Boys and Girls Homes. Clubs or individual Optimist members can sponsor a child for \$250. Please make out your checks to Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina



Walt Armentrout District Boys and Girls Home Chairman

and send them to 400 Flemington Drive, Lake Waccamaw, N.C. 28450. Please indicate clearly on your check that the money is for a Christmas Sponsorship!

Also Boys and Girls Homes would like to extend an invitation to you to help our children by participating in our "in lieu of Christmas gifts" Christmas Card program. In acknowledgement of your donation, Boys and Girls Homes will prepare and mail Christmas cards to family, friends, customers, clients, employees and others to whom you wish to send season's greetings. The cards are very special because they are decorated with the artwork of one of our residents. For more information, contact Jean Jordan by calling 910-646-3083 or e-mail her at [jean.jordan@boysandgirlshomesofnc.org](mailto:jean.jordan@boysandgirlshomesofnc.org)

Looking ahead, the Second Annual Optimist Day at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. will be held on Saturday March 10th, 2007. Optimists from all over the state are invited for fun and fellowship and a chance to see first hand the major renovations to the Optimist Cottage. The day will start with a hands-on

work project at 9:00am, a special Open House Ceremony at 11 am, and a fellowship luncheon and program in the Chapel Fellowship Hall around 12 noon. More details later. Our goal again is to have over 100 Optimists at Boys and Girls Homes in Lake Waccamaw on Saturday March 10, 2007!

With your help on all of these opportunities, we can put our Optimist hands together and raise up the children at Boys and Girls Homes!

Walter E. Armentrout, Jr.  
North Carolina District East Boys and Girls Homes Chairman



Tom Lamont, Boys & Girls Home Representative.



For the first time in several years, both our district and Optimist International ended the year with a plus in membership. Thanks to each of you that helped make that possible. But let's not stop there or get complacent with that. The more members we have, the more kids we can serve and the more help we can have for various projects.

OI has several programs that can help you get more members such as Just Ask, and the NOW program. Of course, the basic tips are to start with friends, customers, parents of the kids you are doing projects for, and newcomers to town. Invite them to a meeting and tell them what you do for the youth, the community, and how it rewards you with great fellowship and sense of contributing to the betterment of your com-

munity. I encourage each Optimist to go and recruit a new member this quarter.

Ellen Foster  
Membership Chair



## Optimist International President's Visit

**HAVE YOU.....**ever wondered, thought or seen the mountains of North Carolina in the early spring?...It's almost as beautiful then as it is with the changing of the colors in fall...well **GUESS WHAT?.....**There's a chance for you to experience and see for yourself how beautiful the western part of North Carolina is during that time by attending the **REGIONAL MID-YEAR "GROWTH CONFERENCE..THE HEART OF THE DUNN DEAL"** in Boone, NC on the campus of Appalachian State University at the Broyhill Conference Center, **March 23-25, 2007.**

**ANSWER THIS?.....**Where can you go for a weekend, have fun, fellowship, training, three meals a day for only \$49.00 and a room rate of only \$69.00 a night? **"WHAT A DEAL"!!!!**

I **URGE** you to join with fellow North Carolina East Optimists, North Carolina West Optimists, Kentucky/West Virginia Optimists, Tennessee Optimists and Virginia Optimists during this weekend. This will also be a grand time to visit and fellowship with **International President Ronnie Dunn** and her husband Wayne.

You will find registration forms and hotel information referencing the conference included with this newsletter. (included only in the direct mailing) I will also have information to distribute at the District Conference in Goldsboro. Let's make the North Carolina East Optimists look good....**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE!**

Sandy Cyphers  
N.C. East District Conference Attendance Rep.  
910-799-4867 (Home)  
910-367-3295 (Cell)



### **Al Ludlum, Web Master**

A note from the web master to ask ALL optimists. If you have an e-mail address please e-mail it to me at [aludlum@nceast-optimist.org](mailto:aludlum@nceast-optimist.org) and if at any time they see a problem with web site links or wrong information to also email me about the corrections.

# OI Foundation Awards



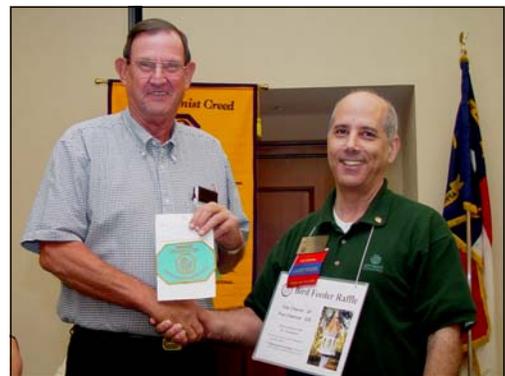
Bennie Bass, Wilmington Cape Fear, Framed Print.



Carey Foster, Roanoke Rapids, Framed Print.



Carolyn Lackey, Raleigh, Framed Print.



Jerry Medlin, North Raleigh, Bronze Benefactor emblem.

The above awards were presented by Foundation Chair, Bob Verne at the September Convention. The Framed Print Award is for total year-to-date donations of \$500. The Bronze Benefactor Award is for total lifetime donations of \$15,000.



Person Growth & Involvement Chair, 2006-2007, Ed Taylor



Lt. Governors, A&A Winners 3rd Quarter: Barbara Timmons, Zone 6, 1st and Don Harritan, Zone 2, 2nd.

# OI Junior Golf Tournament



Ken Dixon  
District Junior Golf Chairman

The Junior Golf tournament will again be held at Keith Hills Country Club at Buies Creek, NC on April 14th and 15th of 2007.

All of the details have not been worked out as of yet. I will let all of the clubs know just as soon as possible.

I do not anticipate any change from last year.

We had 63 participants last year with 16 qualifying for the International tournament. That is over 25% of the field qualifying.

Thanks,



Optimist Interna-  
2006)

tional Foundation (2005-

On behalf of the OI Foundation, I would like to sincerely thank all the clubs and individuals who contributed to the foundation last year. This includes those who participated in the OIF auction at the 2nd quarter meeting last February and those who bought tickets for the 50/50 raffles

over the course of the year. Together we raised \$14,625.60 in our district. This amounts to over \$12 per person. Way to go, Optimists!

These funds are greatly needed by the Foundation for funding the existing Optimist programs and expanding into new programs to help us in our goal of "Bringing out the best in kids!"



# JOOI Activities



The new year is off to a good start and we're full of optimism and enthusiasm. We have every right to feel good about our clubs, our zones, and our District. No one has a more noble mission than Optimists. We get to work with kids!



**Joe King**  
**JOOI Youth Clubs Chair**

In Optimism, one of the very best ways to improve the lives of kids, and have fun doing it, is through Youth Clubs. They provide so much for both youth and adults. Both the youth club and adult club benefit from the interaction between the clubs. It also provides many opportunities for adults to get close to the youth in their communities. I've never spoken to a member of an adult club that sponsors a youth club that didn't have positive things to say about their experiences.

Youth clubs provide many valuable service projects in their communities. Just like adult clubs, they select their own projects and carry them out. They have also provided much needed and appreciated manpower for adult club projects. This is really the time when bonds and friendships are formed between members of both clubs.

At the November District Conference in Goldsboro, the youth clubs from throughout the District will be meeting at the same time as the adults. We plan to hold elections for District Governor and Secretary-Treasurer as well as conduct a meeting where all the clubs are recognized, projects described, and a guest speaker is scheduled.

Our District is unique. We have a club solely dedicated to the promotion and support of youth clubs. It's called the JOOI Advisory Club and it will meet in Goldsboro Saturday morning as well.

I encourage you to promote the attendance at the Youth District Meeting among the youth clubs you sponsor and I invite you to attend and join the JOOI Advisory Club.

If you have any questions about forming a club, I'm happy to talk with you about it. I'll be glad to attend your club meeting to discuss it and will work with youth in your community to help organize a youth club.

Joe King



## Childhood Cancer Campaign

In May 2006, OI President Mike Listenberger and his wife Judy presented a check for \$295,000 to Dr. Martin D. Abeloff, Director of the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. This check is in addition to the \$200,000 presented two years ago to establish the research fellowship in the name of Optimist International. This fellowship supports the research in the university's Division of Pediatric Oncology to develop a vaccine for acute myelogenous leukemia.

The NC East district contributed \$2,625.10 last year. Thanks to all who helped make this happen.

The Childhood Cancer Campaign needs continuous support to reach our goal of "providing the care and finding the cure." Each club is asked to appoint a club CCC chair and to register your chairperson with the international staff. This will help your club receive and share information with the international staff about CCC throughout the year. Chairs must register each year even if they have held the position in previous years. Please let the district leaders know who your CCC chairperson is also. The registration form is available on the forms page of the Optimist website, [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). For more information about the CCC program, call 1-800-500-8130, ext.261 or 235, or via e-mail at [ccc@optimist.org](mailto:ccc@optimist.org).

I am again offering to help any club organize a "Kisses for Childhood Cancer" fundraiser any time. It is surprising how easy it is to collect a large amount of funds for Childhood



Cancer research and related activities by giving away Hershey's kisses. It is also a great way to get the word out what Optimist International is all about and to recruit new members. Please contact me for details.

Trish Verne, CCC Chair  
E-mail: [rverne@nc.rr.com](mailto:rverne@nc.rr.com)  
(919) 942-4144

NCE Bulletin  
Issued Quarterly: Oct., Jan., Apr., Aug.  
Published by Wayne Sidelinger,  
Bulletin Editor.  
1104 Windemere Dr. NW,  
Wilson, NC 27896  
Tel Day 252-237-6778  
Fax 252-243-3502  
Tel Night 252-237-1334  
Email [wsidelinger@nc.rr.com](mailto:wsidelinger@nc.rr.com)

NCE Email  
[www.nceast-optimist.org](http://www.nceast-optimist.org)

OI Email  
[www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)



# Optimist International Essay Contest

**"I Want to Make A Difference Because..."** is the topic for the 2006-2007 Essay Contest and the essay should be 400-500 words. The deadline for each Club to submit its winning essay to the NC East District Essay Chairman is **February 28, 2007**.

Information for Club Contests can be found on the Optimist International website ([www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)). Please note that several changes have been made in this year's contest rules. Refer to the website for specifics, but here is a summary of the changes:

- Students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. may participate.
  - Deductions for failing to include at the top of the page the topic with the number of words (2 points) and for going over/being under the word limit (5 points for each 25 words over/under limit).
  - All essays must be typewritten and double-spaced.
  - No reference can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District.
- Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner.

To access Essay contest information on the website, select "Members", "Clubs & Districts", "Programs/Activities", and "Essay Contest". In addition to the official contest rules, the website includes a student application, sample news releases to publicize your Club contest, and the forms needed for the Club contest and for submitting your winning essay to the District.

Remember the deadline for your Club's entry is **February 28, 2007**. Entries should be sent to **Judy Harritan, NC East District Essay Chairman, 1108 Woodland Drive, Whiteville, NC 28472**. Questions may be sent via email to [jharritan@ec.rr.com](mailto:jharritan@ec.rr.com) or you may call me at 910-642-6467.



Judy Harritan, District Essay Chair

**NC EAST DISTRICT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
FOURTH QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 16, 2006  
WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Governor Ray Potter called the meeting of the N.C. East District Board of Directors to order at 9:07 AM

Ray Potter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Yancey Hines gave the invocation.

Ray Potter recognized the Past Governors that were present.

Ray Potter recognized first time attendees.

Billy Edgerton made some remarks about members that had deceased this past year.

Kathryn Brunges of Wrightsville Beach gave welcome remarks.

The Third Quarter Meeting minutes were presented by Allan Ludlum and were approved subject to the correction that Immediate Past Gov. Yancey Hines was not present at this meeting. Jerry Medlin / Tommy Peele.

The Third Quarter Financial Report was presented by Allan Ludlum and was approved subject to the correction that year-to-date addition be checked. Sandy Cyphers / Earl Moore.

Wayne Sidelinger Newsletter Editor, asked for email and address updates for next Optimist year. Wayne also reminded the clubs to keep doing newsletters for the upcoming year.

Bob Verne reported on the OI Foundation. He presented prints & awards to clubs and called for an alter call.

Carey Foster reported on the convention attendance at 117 registered members.

Tom Lamont gave an update on activities at Boys & Girls Home. The Optimist Cottage is undergoing major renovations. Bathrooms repaired and updated & New Roof. \$66,000.00 in funds, raised for the past two years. \$40,000.00 raised by N.C. East. \$2,000.00 raised by the 5x12. Alter Call.

Allan Ludlum reported on the Web Site & asked that clubs send information.

Trish Verne gave an update on Childhood Cancer and recognized several clubs that have raised significant funds this year for Childhood Cancer. Alter Call.

Sandy Cyphers, New Club Building Chair, reported that the new Western Wake Optimist Club is close to chartering on 9/23 & the new Bolton Optimist Club is close to chartering on 9/25. She encouraged everyone to continue working to build new clubs before the end of September.

Barbra Timmons, JOOI Chair, reported that twelve JOOI clubs would be competed by the end of the year. Tommy Peele & the Rocky Mount Club have 31 applications for a new JOOI Club.

Walt Armentrout reported on the submission of CPA, he urged clubs to continue to submit CPA books for judging.

Break taken.

At break the Executive Committee convened to review & approve the district by-law changes. Bob Verne reviewed changes, motion made by Bob Verne to accept, seconded by Don Harritan, Approved.

Break Over.

Bob Verne reviewed changes to the district by-law changes, motion made by Bob Verne to accept, seconded by Barbara Timmons, Approved.

Barbara Timmons reported about the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) foundation.

Jerry Medlin reported on the training that will continue today.

Yancey Hines, Candidate Qualifications Chair, announced that Dan Durham has been nominated (B. Verne\ Potter) as Governor Elect for 2007-2008. Nominations were opened from the floor. Ed Taylor was also nominated (Hedgepeth \ Peterson). A motion was made to ballot vote; before the motion was seconded, Ed Taylor removed his name from ballot. Motion was made and approved to accept the nomination of Dan Durham as Governor Elect for 2007-2008. T. Peele / Armentrout

Motion was made and approved to accept Dan Durham as Governor Elect for 2007-2008 by acclamation. L. Watson / S. Cyphers

Allen Stallings, Membership Chair, reported on membership numbers.

Ellen Foster, OI Convention chair reported on membership attending past OI Convention.

Ed Taylor, PGI Chair, recognized members for completions of PGI Steps and recognized Sandy Cyphers for completion of PGI Step level 10.

Worth Starling presented the Third Quarter A & A awards. The top six clubs for the quarter were: Winter Park, Whiteville, Greenville, Wilson Evening, Rocky Mount Evening, and North Raleigh. The top three Lt. Gov. for the quarter were: Larry Webb, Barbara Timmons & Don Harrington. Bob Verne talked about the 2006-2007 Oratorical Contest.

Remarks from the OI rep. Sandy Wooten.

Governor Ray Potter gave a few remarks and thanked everyone for the past year.

Door prize drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM with the recitation of the Optimist Creed.



Allan Ludlum  
Secretary-Treasurer

# 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.



NCE District Bulletin  
1104 Windemere Dr. NW  
Wilson, NC 27896

