

North Carolina East OPTIMIST NEWS

Vol. 6 Issue 2 January 2008

Dear NC East Optimist Members,

Welcome to the second quarter. I thank all Optimists for the hard work and time spent with the children in the North Carolina East District in the first quarter. The District had a good membership growth, some 67 new Optimists joining our clubs from October 1 to January 15. I am sorry to report the District has lost the Bolton club in late December. Let's all work together and replace the Bolton club with several new stronger clubs.

I have enjoyed traveling in all 6 Zones in the first quarter and have seen many clubs in action with youth projects, selling Christmas trees and seeing the new officers start their new year.

I look forward to seeing all Optimists in Greenville for the 2nd Quarter meeting on February 8-9. OI Foundation chairman, Darrell Fulcher has planned a great auction with some exciting items being offered. Come and enjoy the auction and help raise money for the OI Foundation.

I request all members to continue to work on membership and as many youth project as possible. Our children are why we do what we're doing.



Barbara and I just returned from the Governor's Conference and our District is #11 in membership and club retention. Our Vice president, Doug Lamm, from the Wilson Evening club, is #1 in all of the Regions. Be sure to congratulate Doug in Greenville.

All clubs that are currently working on new JOOI clubs or Optimist clubs are asked to share the good news with the District. Carlyle Teague is the district NCB. Sandy Cyphers is a Certified Club Builder and will be glad to help if needed.

Thanks for being a member of the great NCE District and continue to serve the youth.

Dan Durham
Governor.

NCE 2006-2007

Top Clubs in District

1. Wilson Evening, Zone 4
2. Whiteville, Zone 2
3. Roanoke Rapids, Zone 5

Top Lt., Governors in District

1. Carolyn Mason, Zone 6
2. James Lamm, Zone 4
3. Tommy Peele, Zone 5

Top Zones in District

1. Zone 6
2. Zone 4
3. Zone 5



Worth Starling, A&A Chair

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 and if at any time they see a problem with web site links or wrong information to also email me about the corrections.



Fourth Quarter A&A Winners—NCE District

Top Ten Clubs

1. Chapel Hill	6600
2. Wilmington Cape Fear	6525
3. Roanoke Rapids.....	6425
4. Wilson Golden Circle.....	4400
5. Whiteville	3875
6. Wilson Evening	3825
7. Rocky Mount Evening.....	3700
8. Greenville.....	3525
9. North Raleigh.....	3450
10. Elizabethtown.....	3175

Top Clubs In Each Zone



From Left: Katherine Westbury, Wilmington Cape Fear, Zone 1; Judy Harritan, Whiteville, Zone 2; Billy Edgerton Greenville, Zone 3; Wanda Lamm, Wilson Golden Circle, Zone 4; Marion Barnes, Roanoke Rapids, Zone 5 and Madeline Jefferson, Chapel Hill, Zone 6.

Zone 1 Wilmington Cape Fear	6525
Zone 2 Whiteville.....	3825
Zone 3 Greenville.....	3525
Zone 4 Wilson Golden Circle.....	4400
Zone 5 Roanoke Rapids	6425
Zone 6 Chapel Hill	6600

Top 3 Lt. Governors

1. Carolyn Mason, Zone 6	15525
2. Tommy Peele, Zone 5	13650
3. James Lamm, Zone 4.....	9875



A Gentle Reminder To all clubs

Has your Optimist Club held its Essay Contest yet? Have you given a student a chance to share thoughts and feelings about the world and his or her place in it? Remember, when the kids participate, you participate.

When the kids win, you win. There are no losers—we are all winners:

- (1) the young people who confront and express their thoughts and feelings, and
- (2) the clubs that have fostered the intellectual growth and maturity of all the young people who enter.

To read two examples of winning essays you can go the first page of Henderson Optimist Web Site and click on the links under the heading “Essay Winners.” Go to www.henderson-optimists.org. These essays are:

(1) Catherine Jasmine’s winning International Essay presents an introspective and highly creative effort, and it won her a college scholarship worth \$5,000.00. (This scholarship is now worth \$6,000.00.)

(2) Cathleen Carswell’s NC East District Essay about her love for and dedication to children won her a \$650.00 college scholarship. She plans to be an elementary teacher. For her high school senior project this year she raised over the \$1,000.00 and gathered 1,334 books for the children of a local elementary school. What a winner! Wouldn’t you want her teaching your children or grandchildren? *(By the way, her dad joined the local club after seeing his daughter treated so well by Optimists.)*

The deadline is February 28, 2008. It is your choice to sponsor a contest and create winners. Remember the Essay Contest topic: “Today’s Choices Shape my Future.”

Please make a good choice for the kids in your community.

In Optimism,

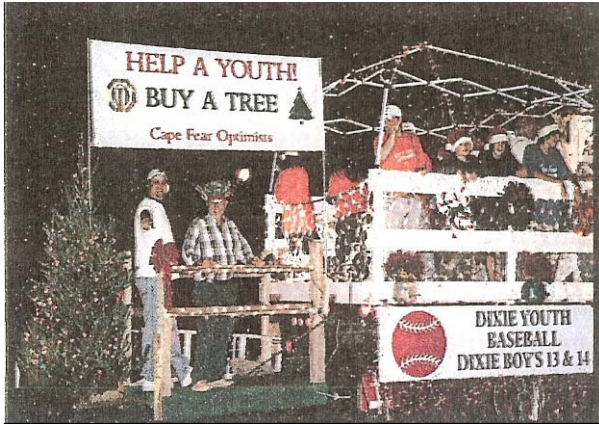
Yancey Hines, NC East District Essay Contest Chair

1503 Cypress Drive

Henderson, NC 27536

252-492-4376





Display on the Wilmington Cape Fear tree lot.



Tommy Peele, OI Ambassador for the Convention in Texas, July 2-5, 2008. Gaylord Texan Resort, Grapevine, Tex.

From Greater Spring Lake Optimist Club:
A poem that was written for our club by one of the school social workers that we help annually.

Dave Robert, President

Optimist Club... Angels in Disguise

My Lights are about to be turned off; only part of the bill was paid before...

The rent was due too, so I couldn't afford to pay more.

My daughter was cold, so I sent a note...

She can't come to school today without a coat.

We don't have water to drink or even take a bath...

Here I go again, down that '*ole no money path*'.

Many days I cry and shiver in total despair...

Hanging on faith while waiting for a hand that may share.

I wake up hungry and feeling really sad...

A gift card or money for bills makes me feel really glad.

When others see and feel my plight...

They willingly give making my heart feel so light.

Angels are always thought to be heavenly and above...

We know now that angels are all around giving out their heartfelt love.



Governor Elect, **Barbara Timmons**, North Raleigh Club,



Some of the \$700 of Christmas gifts donated to Ronald McDonald House by the Wilson Bennett Club. Pictured, Alton Lamm, President.

Congratulations to the Cape Fear Optimist Club for the Poker Tournament to benefit the Boys' and Girls' Homes and the Childhood Cancer Campaign. They raised about \$1500 and had a lot of fun in the process. If your club is interested in hosting a tournament, they'll be glad to help you get organized. The club is teaming with the Winter Park Club to hold a golf tournament at the Rock Fish Country Club in Wallace on April 19th. This tournament will also benefit the Boys and Girls Home and the Childhood Cancer Campaign.



The social services department at Duke contacted me about a child that needed financial assistance. The family needed medical equipment (wheelchair, hospital bed, etc.) to be able to care for her at home in Wilmington following her treatment. The Cape Fear Club and the Winter Park Club sent \$500 to the hospital to assist the family. Thanks to both clubs for helping a child from their area.

Three more clubs are planning a "Kisses for Childhood Cancer" fund-raiser. They are Laurinburg, Cape Fear, and the Henderson Club. Let me know if your club is interested in this easy project. Bob has helped me compile a workbook that we can e-mail to you to help you get started and I'll make up the vests and tubes you'll need.

We have received the application form from Wal-Mart for a matching grant program that supports community projects like the "Kisses" fund raiser. They will match up to \$1000.00 of funds raised at a Wal-Mart or Sam's Club store. Your club may obtain a copy of the application at the district meeting or you can get it from the Community Involvement Coordinator at your local Wal-Mart store. Plan to include your club brochure and the OI Childhood Cancer Campaign brochure with your application. This is a great way to double your success and inform them about you and the project.

The Chapel Hill Club recently made their year end donations; \$2,500 to Duke, \$2,500 to UNC, and \$1,500 to the OI Foundation for the research project at Johns Hopkins. They also set up a \$3,000 fund at UNC to provide snacks for the children and families being treated at the clinic. These patients and families can't leave to get snacks during treatment. Dr. Stuart Gold spoke about the children he is treating at UNC. The oldest is forty and the youngest patient was a newborn baby. It seems hard to believe that one so young could have cancer, but yes, babies are born with cancer. One child in every 330 in the U.S. develops cancer before age 20. The club has begun its "Kisses for Childhood Cancer" campaign. They have had three weekend collections and plan many more. The balmy January weather helped them collect over \$1040 at a Super Wal-Mart in one weekend.

The Ronald McDonald house in Durham has started construction on the new

RMD house. It is closer to the hospital and will more than double the number of families they will be able to accommodate. We are fortunate to have excellent hospitals nearby to treat these children. Patients are coming from all over the state and outside NC. Having to travel long distances for treatment adds to the strain these families are under. Last year your pop-top donations helped raise over \$20K for the maintenance of the house. (That is way up from the \$7K of a couple years ago.) Keep collecting those tabs. I'll get them to RMD House or you can also donate them to the VFW and designate RMD House as the beneficiary.



There will be DUCK RACES at the July Convention in Dallas! You can buy a duck to race for you for a \$10 donation to the OI Foundation. You do not have to attend to be a winner, but why miss all the fun? Check the web site for more information. I will have entry forms for you at the district meeting. The deadline for entries is June 16, 2008.

Thank you all for what you are doing for our kids. Your efforts mean a great deal to the children, their families, and the doctors and nurses that deal with this every day. Be sure to pick up some of the new OI CCC brochures at the district meeting. You can also get them by calling Stephanie Monschein at OI (800) 500-8130 ext. 261.

See attached photo. Photo caption: Optimist Club of Chapel Hill presents a check for \$2500 to the Duke University Pediatric Hematology/Oncology center. Left-to Right: Bob Verne, Jim Casey, Ann Drake, Dr. Daniel Wechsler, Trish Verne



Trish Verne
District Childhood Cancer Campaign
Chair

OI Foundation

What a great way to begin a new Optimist year.

Excitement, service ideas, supporting our “Friend of Youth” motto and raising money for the Optimist International Foundation.

That’s exactly what happened at the recent NCED 1st. quarter meeting in Laurinburg, NC.

Friday afternoon started with a raffle of a home entertainment system and a stainless steel outdoor fire pit. The Saturday winners were Jerry Medlin from Zone 6 and Governor Dan Durham.

A personal donation from Ron Riggins and a club donation from the Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club were most welcomed. Four Optimists signed up and donated towards the Dime-A-Day Program.

A training program was available Saturday during the general meeting. Listed below are some of the highlights:

- Explanation: of the OIF “Purpose”, “Vision” and “Mission”
- OIF Programs: Oratorical Contest Scholarships, CCDHH Scholarships, Charitable, Literary and Educational Programs, Volunteer Activities, International Conventions, Staff and Administrative Operation, Essay Contest Scholarships, Youth Club Programs, International and District Training Programs
- OIF Fund Raising Programs: Dime-A-Day, The Century Circle, Presidents Club, Friends of Today, Friends of Tomorrow, And More
- Goals: Establish a Club Foundation Rep. in every club. Every club in the NCED promotes fundraising and donations of unrestricted monies. Every club participate in zone fund raiser
- Less than 33% of the clubs in the NCED donate to the IOF. 100% participation by all clubs is encouraged
- Dime-A-Day Program: Very easy way for Optimist to personally donate to the Foundation

I want to visit clubs and attend zone meetings to promote unrestricted donations and explain why we should donate to the Optimist International Foundation.

Plans for the 2nd. Quarter conference are underway. An auction on Friday night, a raffle during the conference and donations from all the clubs. So plan for a record-breaking weekend.

More information regarding the auction will be advertised through the district newsletter. Clubs will be contacted by their Lt. Governors for auctionable new, unique or collectable items. Note about the auction: Some items you did not sale at your recent yard sale and clothes generally do not raise the kind of donations we are promoting during this auction. Please contribute to the auction and lets all have fun. Examples of good auction item: Jewelry, tools, antiques, gift baskets-remember its Valentine week, gift certificates, bake goods, airline tickets, vacations, etc. Rich Cash will provide our auctioneer services. You will want to donate just to see Rich.



Yours in Optimism
Darrell Fulcher
NCED-OIF Rep.

District Oratorical Contest



NOW is the time to prepare for the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The Optimist Oratorical Contest provides an excellent opportunity for a young person to showcase their oratorical skills and at the same time it provides an opportunity to win a \$1500 scholarship. Those who have witnessed the contest in the past will agree the contest is an example of our youth at their best. Let's try to involve as many youth as we can in the 2008 Oratorical Contest.

IMPORTANT DATES: The names of the zone contest winners must be provided to the District contest Chair by **April 15, 2008**, along with):

1. **Copy of the application**
2. **Copy of the applicant's proof of age**
3. **A typed, double-spaced copy of the speech**

The District oratorical contest will be held on **May 10, 2008** at the 3rd quarter District meeting (Roanoke Rapids)

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: NC East District will award two **\$1500** scholarships, one each to a boy and girl District winner.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Marion Barnes, District Chair



District Membership

The membership committee has announced the following incentives:

For 5 or more members, receive either a cloth pocket book or golf shirt. (left)

Auston Pusey, Cape Fear, has earned two of the incentives.

The following clubs have net gain in membership:

Cape Fear	32
Rocky Mount Evening	5
Wilmington Myrtle Grove	4
Roanoke Rapids	2
Greenville	1
Chapel Hill	1

Through January 29, 2008 the NCE District has 79 new members and 90 members have been lost. The Charter removal of the Bolton club accounts for a loss of 27.

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina

The Third Annual Optimist Day is coming up at the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina in Lake Waccamaw. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday March 1, 2008. Optimists from around the state are invited to participate in our annual hands-on project, enjoy fellowship with other Optimists for lunch, and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Optimist Cottage! Here is the schedule of events for the day:

9:00am until 11:45 am Hands on project and Open House
at the Optimist Cottage
12 noon-1:30pm Luncheon in the Chapel
Fellowship Hall (Dutch Treat:
\$7.50 per person)

Reservations are required so that we know how much food to prepare. Please R.S.V.P by 5 pm on Friday February 22, 2008. Contact Tom Lamont, Director of Civic Club Development at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina by calling 910-646-3083/ext. 241 or email: tom.lamont@bghnc.org

Let's see if 100 Optimists are willing to make a difference in the lives of children by attending this event and supporting our Optimist Boys during this special anniversary year for Optimists and the Boys and Girls Homes.

Special thanks to all the Optimist Clubs who sponsored children at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina for Christmas. It was a wonderful holiday season for the children, especially those boys in the Optimist Cottage. Thank you to the clubs who invited the boys to your Christmas Tree lots for food, fun, and fellowship and for providing shopping opportunities. Thank you to the clubs who took the time to visit the boys in November, December and January and had our famous fried chicken dinner in the Optimist Cottage. We invite all of our clubs to come for a dinner anytime of the year to see the children, visit the cottage and see our facilities. The dinner price has gone up to \$6.75 a person, but Optimists who know will tell you its worth every penny!

2008 marks the 40th year of the Optimist Cottage in Lake Waccamaw and we want to take this opportunity to encourage every Optimist, who can, to participate in our 5 by 12 program and make a personal gift of at least \$60.00 to Boys and Girls Homes. This year as we struggle with rising costs to operate the home, we are asking Optimists to consider raising their annual 5 by 12 gift to \$100.00 in honor of our 40 years of care in the Optimist Cottage. Five dollars a month for 12 months plus an extra \$40.00 to commemorate this special milestone in the history of North Caro-

lina Optimists serving children at Boys and Girls Homes will be greatly appreciated! Please help us to continue to serve children. We need your help more than ever.

In other Boys and Girls Homes news, Statewide Optimist Committee chairman Ron Jones held a committee meeting at Boys and Girls Homes on Saturday January 26th. The committee heard reports on the status of the home, an update on how clubs are doing on their annual gifts, and what needs to be done in the Optimist Cottage to improve the conditions of the facility for the boys.

This year in addition to the annual gifts for operating we hope to receive enough restricted money to purchase new beds for the boys. We are looking at Captain's Beds that are really two pieces of furniture in one with the bed and clothes drawers underneath. Last year one Lion's Club provided the home with over \$8,000 to make it happen for the Lion's Cottage. One Optimist Club is already showing an interest in this project so I'm optimistic that this need will be fulfilled for the boys. If your club has a desire to provide something specific for the cottage, please call Tom Lamont at 910-646-3083 ext. 241 or cell phone at 910-840-7123 and he will provide you with some ideas. Otherwise please understand that operating funds are the top priority right now as we saw a shortfall of operating contributions during our normally strong period of November and December 2007. The Home is experiencing a tight budget and operating funds are needed especially in January, February and March when typically contributions are down. Any help clubs can give us with earlier than normal contributions will be much appreciated.



Boys and Girls Homes President Bill Thompson retired in December and Interim President Becky Wray is doing a wonderful job while the Home's board of trustees continue the search process for a new president.

We are experiencing some challenging times now with funding and finding qualified teaching parents to work with the children in the cottage, so please keep us in your prayers as we are optimistic that things will be getting better as the year progresses. Optimists are friends of youth and more than ever before we need your

Person Growth Involvement

The update on Clubs Active in P.G.I.
The following Members have completed
Level 1 from North Raleigh Optimist
Club as of January , 2008:

1. Gene Dodd
2. Thomas McCutcheon
3. Barbara Timmons
4. LuAnn Poole
5. Keith Bell
6. George Erickbush
7. Cathy Potter
8. Donald Pearce
9. Jerry Medlin

The following Members have completed
Level 1 from Wilmington Cape Fear
Optimist Club as of January, 2008.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Angela Peterson | 2. Sammy Flowers |
| 3. Robert Wilkerson | 4. Mary Wilkerson |
| 5. Walt Moser | 6. Kevin Croom |
| 7. Sonya Croom | 8. Andy Jackson |
| 9. Bobby Whitehurst | 10. Butch Walker |
| 11. Ebern Walker | 12. Billy Ayers |
| 13. Robert Ayers | 14. Julie Ayers |
| 15. Donnie Pridgen | 16. Wes Gray |
| 17. Jacob Thomas | 18. Ben McPherson |
| 19. Sylvis Harker | 20. Bobby Harker |
| 21. Jay Hart | 22. Tammy Yelton |
| 23. Alice Pusey | 24. Pee Wee Moore |
| 25. Lynn Yelton | 26. Roger Lauter |
| 27. James Williams | 28. Bryan Coulter |
| 29. Ebern Watson | 30. Theddeus Barnes |
| 31. Ken Whitley | 32. Paula Gray |
| 33. Mark Lequin | 34. Bennie Herring |
| 35. Calvin Miller | 36. Curtis Keith |

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 37. Dori Walker | 38. Litchicia Zambrano |
| 39. Terry Cruse | 40. Teresa Soles |
| 41. Mike Honeycutt | 42. Mark Peterson |
- also
43. Robert Long - Levels 1 and 2
44. Auston Pusey - Levels 2,3 and 4
45. Robin Bass - Level 4
46. Bennie Bass - Level 7

The P.G.I. Clubs that are active in North
Carolina District # 43 as of
January 15, 2008.

- Rocky Mount - BFT-total members 6
Wilmington-Cape Fear- total members 48
Goldsboro - total members 20
Henderson - total members 19
Laurinburg - total members 5
Raleigh - North -total members 9
Roanoke Rapids - total members 33
Wilson- total member-1
Wilmington-Winter Park-total members 18
Chapel Hill-total members 7

Congratulations to all the clubs members
who are doing

P.G.I. Pro-
gram.
Ellen S. Fos-
ter, NC East
District Chair

Have a Great
Day!
Ellen



Junior Golf Championship

Dates will be announced at the February Board Meeting..

Jim Whitmire
District Chairman
252-308-0017
tinynurse04@yahoo.com

Hello Optimists!

Our district started the year 2007 - 2008 with 11 JOOI clubs. Eight of these clubs have a "pending" status which means that the sponsor clubs need to make sure your JOOI Club and Advisor send in: Club dues, updated membership rosters and officer election reports. Club due statements are usually sent to the sponsor club, however, if your club secretary has not received these, please let me know or you can email Amy Keller at OI and she can help you. Amy's email address is: kellera@optimist.org. Also, you can get the membership roster form and officer election form right from the website: www.optimist.org - click on JOOI Clubs, then click on Forms and Publications. Please email me at optimistjennifer@yahoo.com and I will be glad to help!

I am also proud to announce that the Garner Optimist club is currently completing the paperwork to charter their new JOOI Club at Garner Senior High School. Thank you Garner Optimists!!! The Garner Optimist club does a lot with their youth and have already had a joint fundraiser with their JOOI Club.

As an Optimist, there is nothing like one-on-one time with our youth! The Optimist Clubs with JOOI Clubs are reporting about their joint activities with them and it seems like it is fun and rewarding for both clubs. Currently we have 33 clubs in our district and it would be beneficial for our youth to be sponsored by an adult club. Does each club have a JOOI Club committee chairman? Is that chairman a member of the NC East JOOI Advisory club? This would be a good fit for each club in our district.

Do you have questions about building a JOOI Club! Do you have questions about the NC East JOOI Advisory club? Please let me know! JUST ASK!

Jennifer Timmons

Ashley Walker
Governor
NCE District
JOOI

Home Club; Rocky Mount Evening



December 2, 2007

Optimist International
Attn: OI Board of Directors
4494 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

RE: **“Friend of Youth”**
Official Optimist Slogan/Motto

Dear Optimist International:

Early in 2007 I emailed Optimist International concerning the use of “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” instead of our official slogan **“Friend of Youth”**. After several emails to OI, Ronnie Dunn said the issue would be included on the agenda for the OI Board meeting in March. As a result, the official slogan **“Friend of Youth”** was affirmed at the March meeting (see the attached summary from the March 17-18, 2007 meeting).

I was (and still am) concerned that OI has replaced our official slogan (**“Friend of Youth”**) without any input from OI members. When I received my president-elect package in August, I was disappointed to discover that **“Friend of Youth”** was not mentioned ONE time in the entire package. Also, today I opened the visitor section of the OI website and was shocked to see the following:

Bringing Out the Best in Kids!

It's our motto, it's who we are and what we do. We are people who care about our communities and want to make a difference in the lives of young people...

Who we are is a **“Friend of Youth”**. What we do is to be a **“Friend of Youth”**. I have no problem with the concept of “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” and using that slogan in promotional material. However, I feel that because **“Friend of Youth”** is our official motto, it should always be prominently displayed on our website, membership application, banner patches, and other official Optimist materials and NOT BE REPLACED BY “Bringing Out the Best in Kids”.

During the summer I began a campaign to see if I was alone in my feelings and strong desire to have **“Friend of Youth”** in our member and marketing materials. I learned that I am not alone. I am attaching signatures from Optimist members who also want to reinstate **“Friend of Youth”** as our official slogan.

Please share the attached list with all members of the OI Board of Directors. I hope that the Board will again address the issue of whether our OI official motto/slogan is “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” OR **“FRIEND OF YOUTH”** as stated in our Bylaws. If **“Friend of Youth”** is affirmed again as our motto, then I hope the Board will ensure that **“Friend of Youth”** is used as our motto.


I look forward to your response. Thank you for being a **“Friend of Youth”**.

With Optimism,

Judy J. Harritan, President
Whiteville Optimist Club
1108 Woodland Drive
Whiteville, NC 28472

jharritan@ec.rr.com
910-642-6467

Petition with signatures of OI Members

<small>4494 LINDELL BLVD. • ST. LOUIS, MO 63108 314.371.6000 • FAX: 314.371.6006 E-mail: headquarters@optimist.org www.optimist.org</small>	
December 11, 2007	
Judy J. Hartigan, President Whiteville Optimist Club 1108 Woodland Drive Whiteville, NC 28472	
Dear Judy:	
<p>The Optimist International Board of Directors has reviewed the petition you sent regarding the use of “Friend of Youth” vs. “Bringing Out the Best in Kids.” The Board reaffirms the action it took at the March 2007 meeting that “Friend of Youth” is our official slogan, as specified in the OI Bylaws Article I, Section 4.</p> <p>“Bringing Out the Best in Kids” was established several years ago as the organization’s <i>marketing</i> slogan after extensive professional research found that “Friend of Youth” did not resonate with non-members as well as expected. “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” was found to convey a more positive and specific message about what we do. It was not meant to replace “Friend of Youth.”</p> <p>Where and when to use “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” is a subjective decision that is based on whether the usage is to be for marketing purposes. There is also the practical matter of making changes in material that is already printed and must be used before new material is produced. Clubs are encouraged to continue to use “Friend of Youth” and the organization will make every attempt to continue to use it where appropriate.</p> <p>We appreciate the concern of those members who signed the petition. The Board of Directors will continue to monitor the situation and encourage the use of “Friend of Youth” whenever practical.</p>	
Sincerely,	
	
Ronnie Dunn, Chair Optimist International Board of Directors	



Pictured from left Dr. Connie Luper, principal, Englewood Elementary School; David Hodges, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club; Jayda Moore and her mother, Shena Hightower; Cindy Barnes, 5th grade teacher and former NRMPS Teacher of the Year; Henry Edmondson, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club member.

I wanted to share this press release from the Nash Rocky Mount School System with you. Our club has started a program in Rocky Mount that recognizes, on a monthly basis, a fifth grade student that has demonstrated that they are working hard and with a positive attitude to do their best in the classroom. We feel that the fifth grade is a critical time for most students as they will soon make the transition from elementary school to middle school. Most students still seem to respect their teachers at this age. Our program is not intended to recognize the "best" or "smartest" student, but rather the student that is trying hard to improve at school.

Each month several of our members go to Englewood Elementary School to surprise the student selected with a presentation of a plaque for the student and cupcakes for his/her class. We also have the student's name engraved on another plaque that stays at the school and is displayed for all students, teachers, and visitors to see. The child's parents are invited to the presentation. Dr. Connie Luper, Englewood School Principal, has told us that she and the teachers have seen improvement with the fifth graders' attitudes and focus on improvement in their school work. We anticipate that we will expand this program next year to other schools in the area.

I thought you might want to include this information in the district bulletin. Please do not hesitate to call me at 252-908-3034 if you have any questions. Thanks. David Hodges, President, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club.



Nash-Rocky Mount Public School System
Nashville, North Carolina

November 20, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sandra Drum

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

Executive Director Communications
Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools
Phone: (252) 462-2509
Fax: (252) 459-2734
sdrum@nrms.k12.nc.us

NASH COUNTY— Evening Optimist Club Presents First Optimistic Learner Award

The Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club saw a chance to make a difference in the lives of children – and they made their dream a reality.

Henry Edmondson and David Hodges, members of the Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club, presented the first Optimistic Learner Award to an auditorium filled with excited Englewood Elementary School fifth grade students.

The first Optimistic Learner Award was presented to Jayda Moore. Criteria for the award included: a positive attitude toward learning, putting forth his/her best effort daily and achieving academic progress. Jayda's teacher, Cindy Barnes, noted that Jayda was selected because of her positive attitude, determination to succeed, always trying to do her best and making A/B Honor Roll the first six weeks of school.

Optimistic Learner plaques were presented to both Jayda and Englewood Elementary School principal, Dr. Connie Luper. The school plaque will be permanently located outside the school office with names of recipients added monthly throughout the 2007-2008 school year.

According to members of the Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club, the Optimistic Learner Award is the first given by Optimist Clubs. The Rocky Mount club plans to expand the award to additional schools in the future. The pilot program may also become a model statewide and nationally. Members hope to provide encouragement to students to continue seeking to do their best and to recognize student for their hard work.

Wilson Golden Circle celebrates



Chartered on September 30th, 1987, the Wilson Golden Circle was the first all woman's Optimist club organized in North Carolina, two months after Optimist International changed their bylaws to allow women members. Nine Charter members remain in the club.

The Wilson Golden Circle Optimist Club celebrated it's 20 year Anniversary on October 18, 2007. The club was chartered on September 30, 1987. Pictured above are Wayne Sidelinger 1986-87 Lieutenant Governor from Wilson, Ben Spradley 1986-87 District Governor from Wilmington NC, and Charter Members Eloise Sidelinger, Geraldine Narron, Daphne Godwin, Linda Watson, Charlene Barfield Barbour Edwards, Patsy Nobles, Betsy Winborne and Lois Price. Not pictured is Rosa Pittman Charter Member.

NCE District Convention Sheraton Hotel Atlantic Beach, August 21-24, 2008



Bob Verne
District
Convention
Chair



**NC EAST DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
10/12/7**

NC EAST DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

The following clubs were represented:

Winter Park	Rocky Mount Evening	Wilson Evening
Cape Fear	North Raleigh	Henderson
Goldsboro	Chapel Hill	Roanoke Rapids
Raleigh	Wilmington	Whiteville
Laurinburg	Roxboro	

Gov. Durham called the meeting to order.

Sec. Tres. Carey Foster gave the invocation.

Dan Durham made the introductions of guests, past governors, and first timers.

Allen Ludlum gave the minutes of the 4th quarter meeting and the financial report. He also gave a report on the web site.

Ed Taylor gave a report on the CPA Books.

Trish Verne gave a report on the CCC.

Ellen Foster gave a report on the PGI.

Jerry Medlin gave a report on leadership development.

Barbara Timmons reported on the JOOI Clubs.

Tommy Peele presented information on the OI convention in Grapevine TX.

Bob Verne reported on plans for the 2008 District convention.

Gary Pender spoke on candidate qualifications.

Worth Starling reported on A&A.

Barbara Durham reported on membership.

Carlisle Teague reported on new club building.

Wayne Sidelinger presented a program on how to do a news bulletin.

Daryl Fulcher gave a presentation on How and Why to support the OI Foundation.

Billy Edgerton reported on the CCDH.

Marion Barnes reported on the Oratorical contest.

Yancey Hines reported on the Essay Contest.

Vice president of OI Doug Lamm made remarks about OI and the district.

Barbara Timmons made remarks as governor elect.

Dan Durham made the closing remarks.

Adjournment was done by reciting the Optimist Creed.

Carey Foster

District 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.



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