

North Carolina East Optimist News

Greetings Fellow Optimists. What a year it's been thus far! Our District is flourishing in so many ways and I'm proud of the NC East District Growth Team for their hard work. Many have accepted the membership challenges I outlined going into the new Optimist year and this is very much appreciated. I have a competitive spirit and I make no apologies for it.



Our District remains number one with a growth of 112.2% as of this writing. We have grown our membership in all three categories. We have chartered two new clubs, sponsored over 50 Friends of Optimists (FOOs) and have increased our membership to over 1280. Congratulations to all who have contributed to the success of our District. Our organization needs us!

Optimist International grew by 274 members in the month of April 2010. The 4 for 1 recruiting incentive that went into effect in February 2010 is a major factor in this success. Just recruit 4 new members and your International dues are waived next year.

The third quarter District Meeting is always one of my favorites, as we have our Ora-

torical Contest and announce the winner of our Essay Contest. Our youth are very talented and I'm in awe of their speaking and writing abilities.

We will have the honor of a few special guests during this District meeting weekend. Our International President, Mark Shriver and his wife Pat, will be in attendance. Also, our Mid-Atlantic Vice President-Elect, Bob Buss and wife Carol, will be present to acquaint themselves with as many of our District members as possible. Please join me in making them feel welcome.

By the time you read this, we will be about two thirds through our Optimist year. While I'm happy with the progress of our District thus far, I'm not satisfied. There are millions of kids who need the help of our organization. They are counting on our growth, which, in turn, supports all the programs we provide. For each new member recruited, statistics say we provide services to over 30 kids. That's a phenomenal number!

Keep up the good work and share the pride you have for our organization. There are literally thousands of potential members waiting for us to ask them to join our clubs.

"Remember, membership is an honor and privilege....so share it"

Yours in Optimism,

Auston

District Membership

Recruiting Incentives 2009 - 2010

NC East District GROWTH TEAM

"First in Flight....First in Youth Services"

- * One new member
 - OI Lapel Pin - silver
 - NC East Pin
 - NC East Shirt (first member)
 - Appetizer coupon to Carrabbas Italian Grill

- * Three New Members

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4th Quarter A&A Winners NCE District 2008-2009

Top Ten Clubs



From left: No. 1, Cape Fear, Robin Long: #2, Whiteville, Judy Harritan: No. 3, Winter Park, Tom Lamont: No. 4, Goldsboro, Gary Pender: No. 5, Rocky Mount Evening, Errol Warren: No. 6 Golden Circle, Linda Watson: No. 7, Wake Forest, Bob Verne: No. 8, Roanoke Rapids, Ellen Foster: No. 9, Raleigh, Hank Mattocks: No. 10, North Raleigh, Barbara Timmons.

Top Clubs in Each Zone



From Left: Zone 1, Cape Fear, Robin Long: Zone 2, Whiteville, Don Harritan: Zone 3, Goldsboro, Gary Pender: Zone 4, Golden Circle, Linda Watson: Zone 5, Rocky Mount Evening, Errol Warren: Zone 6, Wake Forest, Bob Verne.

Top Lt. Governors



L to R: 1st, Lt. Gov. Zone 6, Carey Foster (Standing in, Ellen Foster): 2nd, Lt. Gov. Zone 5, Bob Verne: 3rd, Lt. Gov., Zone 3, Gary Pender.

Dan Durham
District A&A Chair



Governor Award Presentations 2008-2009



Snow greets the 2 Quarter Board meeting guests.



Receiving the top honors of the year, Lt. Governor David Fritz, receiving the Distinguished Lt. Governor Award.



Gov. Barbara presents District OIF Chair, Sandy Cyphers, the OIF Award for attaining the highest amount of donations from NCEast, \$21,936, and was #2 out of 53 Districts in Optimist International.



Don Harritan, left, Whiteville, receiving the CPA Award for Community Service and Jerry Medlin, right, receiving a Distinguished President's Award. Also receiving a Distinguished Presidents award, but not in picture, was Michael Harper, North Raleigh



A&A Chair, Worth Starling, left Presenting No. 1. A&A Lt. Gov. award for the year to Lt. Gov. David Fritz, Zone 6 and No. 1, A&A club award for the year to Jerry Medlin, Garner Optimist.

OI Foundation Awards 2008-2009

“Friends of Today” Awards \$500 donation



From top Left: North Raleigh, Barbara Timmons; Cape Fear, Robin Long; Garner, Jerry Medlin; Henderson, Jon Dorsey; Raleigh, Hank Mattocks; R. M. Evening, Errol Warren; Chapel Hill, Bob Verne; Goldsboro, Billy Edgerton; Wilson Evening, Worth Starling.

Silver Benefactor Patch \$25,000 donation Accumulated Lifetime.



From Left: Cape Fear, Robin Long; Yancey Hines, received by Jon Dorsey; Chapel Hill, Bob Verne.

Continuing OI Foundation Awards

Average Per Member Per Club donation Awards 2008-2009



Elizabethtown, \$10 per member.



North Raleigh, \$20 per member.



Garner, \$20 per member.



Golden Circle, \$20 per member.



Rocky Mount Eve, \$20 per member.



Raleigh, \$20 per member.



Cape Fear, \$20 per member.



Tarboro, \$20 per member.



Whiteville, \$30 per member.



Henderson, \$40 per member.



Wilson Evening, \$40 per member.



Winter Park, \$80 per member.



Wilmington, \$90 per member. Accepting the award from Gov Barbara for Wilmington, Lt. Gov. Tom Lamont.

Not pictured are the three recipients of Sandy Scypher's incentive awards. Auston Pusey, Cape Fear, Jimmy Lamm, Wilson Evening and Weymouth Allen, Rocky Mount Breakfast.

B&G Home Awards 2008-2009

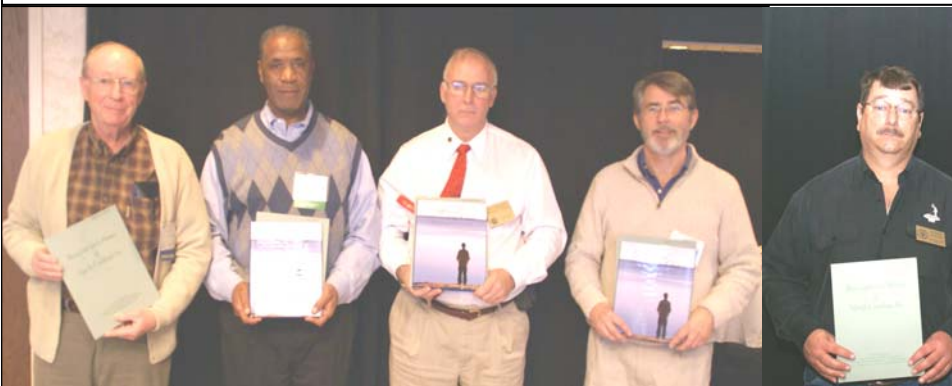


Receiving awards from Tom Lamont, B&G Homes. From left: Chapel Hill, Bob Verne; Elizabethtown, Rachel Mitchell; Garner, Jerry Medlin; Goldsboro, Gary Pender; Greenville, Charles Ross; Henderson, Jon Dorsey and North Raleigh, Barbara Timmons.

10% increase:
Chapel Hill
Elizabethtown
Garner
Goldsboro
Greenville
Laurinburg
Raleigh Dinner
RM Breakfast
RM Evening
Roxboro
Tarboro
Whiteville
Wilmington
Wilson Eve.



Also receiving awards; Winter Park, Alan Ludlum; Cape Fear, Robin Long; Wilson Evening, Worth Starling; Tarboro & Golden Circle, Linda Watson; Whiteville, Don Harritan; Wilmington Supper, John Matthews. Also receiving awards but not pictured: Laurinburg, Rocky Mount Breakfast and Roxboro.



Continuing: Raleigh Dinner, Carlton Baird; Raleigh, Hank Mattocks; Roanoke Rapids, Dan Durham; Rocky Mount Evening, Errol Warren and Winter Park, Ned Gregory.

Clubs donating \$25 per member:
Chapel Hill
Garner
Greenville
Henderson
Raleigh
Raleigh Dinner
Rocky Mount Evening
Tarboro
Whiteville
Wilmington
Wilson Golden Circle

No. 1. Highest contribution for 2008-09 Winter Park, \$6012.46
No. 2. Second highest, Raleigh Dinner, \$3850.00
Carlton Baird, Raleigh dinner was recognized as District Chairman for 2008-09

OI Convention, Denver Colorado



Pike's Peak



Amtrak to Winter Park

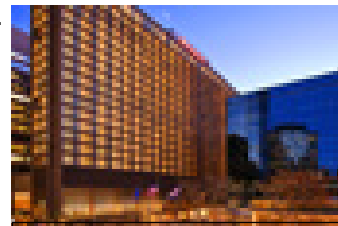


Carey Foster

I am also in the process of organizing a trip that will go to the Air Force Academy, Garden of the Gods, and a train ride to the top of Pikes Peak. They will get us at the hotel and bring us back. It is about a 10 hour tour with lunch included. The price will be between \$95 and \$115.

There must be at least 10 people signed up. It tentatively will be on the Tuesday before the convention starts. Let me

know at the district meeting if you are interested. I also gave the information to OI.



Sheraton Hotel

New 3 day International Convention schedule in Denver necessitates changes:

Officer Elect Training has moved from Friday to Thursday, same time.

Workshops are now 1 hour long.

The Banquet has been moved to Friday night.

The Keynote speaker will be included in the 3rd Business Session.



North Carolina East Convention 2010



Darrell Fulcher, Convention Chairman



The Bay Watch Resort and Convention Center at North Myrtle Beach, SC will be the location for the 2010 North Carolina East District Convention. \$89 per night room rate, same as



last year. The convention committee has engaged



J. C. Knowles for the Saturday morning Old Timers Breakfast speaker.

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.



District Club Services

One of my responsibilities as Club Services Chair is to encourage clubs to work toward achieving Honor and Distinguished Club status. Clubs that achieve either status is normally a very healthy club and is in good standing with the District and Optimist International. Therefore, please see requirements below and determine where you stand in achieving the requirements. If you have questions regarding these programs, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I also want to encourage any clubs that are having issues within your club to please contact me for assistance.

Your work in promoting Optimism in your communities is appreciated.

Please see requirements below:

Club Recognition - Honor Club

- Membership: Clubs with 1-74 Members Net +5 (as of October 1); Clubs 75 or more net +1 (as of October 1)
- Finances: to Optimist International by September 30, 2010
- Complete three service projects & submit a minimum of one CPA entry
- Submit Officer-Elect Report by May 20, 2010.
- Submit President's Pride report by September 30, 2010
- Club President or Board member attends 50% of District meetings

Distinguished Club

Requirements for Honor Club and do any of the following by September 30, 2010:

- Alternate A – Build a New Optimist Club
Sponsor a New Club with at least 25 Charter Members between October 1 and September 30 or build (2) Pilot Clubs with a minimum of 15 fully paid Charter Members. The Club must also complete the New Club Follow-up Program.
- Alternate B – Membership Growth
For a Club of 25 or more Members on October 1:



CLUB SERVICES CHAIRMAN

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Show, by September 30, 2010, a net increase of 25 Members or more.

For a Club of 24 Members or fewer on October 1:

Show, by September 30, 2010, a net increase of 15 Members or more.

- Alternate C – JOOI Club Sponsorship & Membership.
Part 1 - Sponsor a new JOOI Club – minimum of 15 fully paid Charter Members.
Part 2 - The Sponsor Club shows a net increase of at least 15 Members.

**All dates refer to the 2009-2010 administrative year, which runs from October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010.*

**Sponsorship of a JOOI Club does not qualify for Adult New Club credit.*

Ed Taylor

Optimist International Board Decides not to Continue Pursuit of 501(C)(3) Status

April 19, 2010

Recently, the Internal Revenue Service denied Optimist International's request for a change in tax-exempt status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3). After appealing this decision once, the Optimist International Board of Directors has decided to end the pursuit of this change. The next step would have been to take the IRS to court to appeal the decision and incur additional legal fees. Although the benefits of the tax status change for Clubs and the organization as a whole would have been significant, the Board has determined that it would not be in the best interest of the organization to pursue continued legal action.

Optimist International has submitted thousands of documents to the IRS over the past six years and utilized the help of several individual Clubs in trying to convince the agency that we qualified for this advantageous tax status. In the end, however, the IRS ruled that a significant percentage of the activities of our Clubs was of a social nature and, therefore, disqualified us for the 501(c)(3) status, which is given to charitable organizations.

The IRS, as part of the process, had mandated that all Clubs change their Club Bylaws to reflect 501(c)(3) status even though it had not been granted. Now that the application has been denied, all Clubs must immediately change their Bylaws back to 501(c)(4) status. Clubs will also have to change their articles of incorporation accordingly. The Board apologizes for any inconvenience this pur-

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suit may have caused Clubs.

In order to facilitate this change, U.S. Club Presidents and Secretaries can find a generic Standard Club Bylaws when they log in to their Club's information at www.optimistleaders.org. After logging in, they will find a "Club Bylaws" button just above the Club's list of Members. The necessary changes can be made and the new document submitted electronically to Optimist International. For those who would like a tutorial, one is available at www.optimist.org/onlinebylaws or www.optimistleaders.org/onlinebylaws. Club Bylaws will be available online to all Clubs as of October 1, 2010.

Thanks go to all of the Clubs that assisted in this process by providing documentation and other assistance. While the ruling by the IRS prevents Clubs and Optimist International from realizing some definite benefits, the organization will continue to fulfill its mission: "By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids."

Optimistically,
Mark O. Shriver IV
International President



COMMUNICATION CONTEST
for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL 

The CCDHH will be held Thursday, May 20, at 6:00pm at the Eastern NC School for the Deaf. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be serving pizza at 6:00 and then the contest. Please let me know if you will be there for the pizza.

This is a very special contest because these kids don't get many opportunities to display their talents. This is one they can. All the contestants will be from the school. There are other hard of hearing students throughout our district, but it is really hard to get them to participate in the contest.

Maybe, if we keep trying, other students will be involved in the future.

THANKS,

BILL EDGERTON,
919-920-8541



Billy Edgerton, left and Tom Lamont both receiving the OIF Larsen Award. Yancey Hines, right, receiving the \$2500 Accumulation Award.

OI FOUNDATION - If you get this newsletter, you probably know how important the OI Foundation is to our district. Much of the program materials that we use and the scholarships we get are provided by the foundation. Our district will get \$10,000 in scholarships this year.



Friday Night Auction at the February Board Meeting netted **\$1041** for the OI Foundation..



Bill Edgerton, District OI Foundation Rep.

It would be great if you could bring your club's donation to the May meeting. Also, if you can become a Presidents Club member, or whatever level of giving you can do, that would be great.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me or E-mail me at 919-920-8541 or bedgerton4@nc.rr.com.

THANKS, BILL EDGERTON
OI Foundation Dist. Rep.

Mid Atlantic Region Vice President Candidate

(Capital–Virginia, Kentucky–West Virginia, Maryland–South Delaware, North Carolina East, North Carolina West and Tennessee Districts)

Sandy Cyphers

Member (date joined): Optimist Club of Winter Park, North Carolina (1993) .

Occupation: Retired Assistant Collector of Revenue, New Hanover County.

Optimist Service: Club President – 1998-1999 (Distinguished) and 2004-2005 (Distinguished); Lt. Governor, North Carolina East District – 1999-2000; Governor, North Carolina East District – 2002-2003 (Distinguished); Member, International JOOI Committee – 2004-2005 and 2009-2010; Member, International Convention Committee – 2005-2006; Member, International Convention Credentials Committee – 2006-2007



How will you help the Clubs in your Region grow? Basically, I feel the best way to assist my Region in growing

is to offer my time, energy, enthusiasm and passion for this organization to assist them in their endeavor of new Club building or membership recruitment. In doing this I will be hands on in working side by side, “just asking,” to recruit new Members in their Club or by working together and showing prospective members, the community and schools what Optimist Clubs could do if a new Club were built.

What is the most important thing an International Vice President can do? Be committed to the prestigious position and willing to dedicate the necessary time and energy in helping to achieve the goals of the Optimist International President, and supporting the mission of the Optimist organization and the programs established by the Board of Directors. It is essential to establish respect and good rapport within all Districts to motivate Club Presidents through their Governors that growth is essential to the life of this organization as well as to the Governors, and to see that each District and Governor has ongoing training for their District officers and team members.

What leadership skills do you have that qualify you to serve as an International Vice President? I have the leadership skills to motivate individuals and groups toward a common goal. I set goals for myself and have the perseverance to work diligently to achieve those goals. I listen to other individuals’ ideas and opinions. I communicate well with people. I am task-oriented and person-oriented, but most importantly I lead by example, bringing in new Members and working to build new Optimist Clubs for this organization. I have self-confidence and the passion for this organization to continue to “Bring Out the Best in Kids.”

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District New Club Building

Hello N C East District Optimists,

This has been an exciting year of growth for the NC East District! So far this year, we have two new and strong clubs in our district! The newest club is Duplin Optimist Club which was chartered April 19, 2010 with 29 members - Congratulations and welcome! This club is located in Wallace and the BOE's are Governor Auston Pusey, Bennie Bass, Judy Harritan and Lt Gov. Don Harritan. Also, we had

a photo opportunity time that I wanted to share! Everyone may already know *someone* in the photo!

Also, OI has updated their web site so that the New Club Building links are now interactive. This is a great tool to use when working and building your contact list. When considering your new club target market, let me know and I will work with you!

Last year in beautiful North Myrtle Beach at our district convention, Governor Auston asked those in training about their commitment to build new clubs in communities which have no Optimist Clubs. Each gave names of communities within their respective zone which would be a great possibility for a new club. Those possibilities are: Zone 1 - Wilmington and Topsail; Zone 2 - Hope Mills and Pembroke; Zone 3 - Kinston and New Bern; Zone 4 - Nashville; Zone 5 - Scotland Neck; Zone 6 - Fuquay-Varina and Durham. The great news is that we now have new clubs in Wilmington and Wallace and the growth team members are working on clubs in Fuquay-Varina and New



Wallace Optimist Club

Left to Right: Gov Auston Pusey, President Eddie Boyette, Mike Taylor-BOD, Vice President Joan Williams, Marsha Lewis-BOD, Lou Powell-BOD, Mickey Rivenbark-BOD, Wanda Whaley-BOD, Treasurer Doris English.



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Bern. We are not limited to these areas!!!

Communication and follow up is definitely key to making contact in these areas and that is where YOU can help. Do you know anyone that lives or works in these areas? Would you make that call or go by and visit??? You will never know if someone is interested in giving back to their community if you don't **ASK!** If your contact could help a child in that community in any way, would that thought motivate you to make that call? Well, *believe me it will!*

I recently read an article in the "Parade" that is titled *Compassion Counts More than Ever* which is dated March 7th, 2010. The link to this article is www.Parade.com/cares . This is about a poll that asked **1008 Americans** what they would do if given \$100,000 to donate to charity. This article starts with "America is in the midst of a boom - and one that is benefiting and bonding us all". "During past tough economic times, there was a decrease in volunteering," says Patrick Corvington, CEO of the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. "But today there's a 'compassion boom' of people helping others." "Public Service" has become more than a phrase or school requirement in our country - its now a way of life for Americans of *all ages*. **Our nation is in the midst of a volunteering boom.**

Most of the poll respondents are motivated toward public service by simple altruism--60% want to help other people, and 57% want to make the world a better place. However, many people are specifically moved to act on behalf of their own communities. Nearly half of respondents (49%) want to improve their neighborhoods.

The 1008 Americans that were polled want to give back to their communities! A new club can consist of only 15 to 25 people!! Just imagine how much a child would appreciate YOUR help! Please let any or our District Growth members know of any contacts in communities that would benefit by having an Optimist Club there!

As Optimists we are diligently working toward making a difference in the life of a child - in fact *every child* we can in *every community* in which we have clubs. After all, *that is what we do best right? The one common denominator that each of us as Optimist have is to give back to the community in which we live by serving our children one by one!*

It's like what Gandhi said about being the change you want to see in others," Freedman explains. "You have to start in your own backyard."

Please consider this . . **JUST ASK!** I look forward to hearing from you!

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We also had a charter banquet April 28th for the Optimist Club of the Port City in Wilmington. This was a great turnout and I can assure everyone that this club is very active and passionate about serving the kids! And this club has grown to 40 members!



New club, Optimist Club of Port City: Don Harritan, Whiteville Optimist, Co-Sponsor, Gov. Barbara Timmons, Lt. Gov. Auston Pusey, Doris Eakes, Port City member, Lori Harris, Port City President, Tom Lamont, Winter Park, co-sponsor and recipient of Builder of Excellence Award, , Sandy Cyphers, District NCB Chair and Doris Smith, Port City member. Port City chartered with 37 members

Congrats on the #1 District for membership!

Hope to get a chance in the next year to meet everyone!

The Optimist of the Port City is posting all its events, activities, and meetings on its Facebook page: Optimist of the Port City. Please come and be our guest, share your Optimist stories, fellowship, and meet our members.

Happy Spring!



In Service to Children,

Lori Harris
Charter President
Optimist of the Port City

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**Yours in Optimism,
Barbara Timmons
New Club Building Chair - 2009 - 2010**

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina



On March 6th we had the Optimist Work Day at the Boys & Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw. As you know we



called this the 100 Optimist Work Day hoping to have that many to show up and work. What a great turnout we had with 16



Optimists from the NC West and 72 from the NC East. I was very proud to have so many people to take the time to help and show their love for the Boys



& Girls. We got a lot of work done in the cottage, country store, storage room and

on the farm. A

GREAT BIG THANK YOU to ALL that came out and helped to make a difference in a kids life.



Thank You Optimist
Gary Pender
NC East Chairperson
Boys & Girls Home



Boys & Girls Home Awards at 2nd Board Meeting



Trish Verne , left and Bob Verne, Chapel Hill and John Matthews, right, Wilmington Supper, receiving Boys & Girls Home History Book from Tom Lamont.



Receiving Century Club awards from B&G Homes were; Robin Long, Cape Fear; Don Harritan, Whiteville; Billy Edgerton, Goldsboro and David Fritz, Raleigh.

It is an exciting time for the Boys and Girls Homes and the Optimist Cottage. First let me say how proud I was of the response by Optimist to our work day at the cottage back in March! We almost made our goal of 100 Optimists and turnout from Optimist East was incredible! Yes indeed for the second year in a row we had more Optimists than Lions on our campus. But what a great day of service by both organizations to the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina! We appreciate everyone who participated! Now the latest news! Our President Gary Faircloth has chosen the Optimist Cottage for additional renovations. Under Gary's leadership a standard has been set for how the agency wants each cottage to look. So now we have a standard for painting, for carpet, for furniture, for bedroom closets, for lighting, for saving costs like putting in new hot water heater systems that will save us money in the long run. The good news is that we have around 40 thousand dollars in the Optimist restricted account for capital improvements. The challenge is we need an additional 40 thousand to do all that we want to do to improve the cottage to meet the standards that we have set. I need your help by encouraging individual Optimists to be a Century Club member and designate their funds to this project or have your club check restricted this year to the Optimist Cottage Renovation project so that we can make this a reality! Thanks to Gary Pender, our district chairman for donating paint to this project. Please help Gary by supporting his efforts to raise money this year for the Optimist Cottage and let's get the boys back in their newly renovated home as soon as we can! Thank you for all that you do for the children!

Tom Lamont.
Director of Civic Club Development

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. "NEEDS LIST"

Campus Residential Cottages



- Replace lighting with energy efficient/damage resistant fixtures
Cost: 8 cottages @ \$4,800 ea. \$38,400
- Replace washers/dryers with energy efficient units
Cost: 10 units @ \$900 ea. \$9,000
- Commercial vacuum cleaners for cottages
Cost: 9 @ \$300 ea. \$2,700
- Replace old gas fired water heaters with on demand units
Cost: 10 units @ \$5,700 ea. \$57,000
- Gas cooking ranges for cottages
Cost: 6 units @ \$8,000 ea. \$48,000

Gymnasium/School Facility



- Replace heating system with infra red energy efficient system
Cost..... \$14,500
- Replace plexi-glass with energy efficient safety glass
Cost..... \$13,425
- Replace fresh air ventilation system
Cost..... \$5,184

Vocational Education Program



- Auto diagnostic machine
Cost..... \$3,500
- Lincoln Power MIG 216 Welder
Cost..... \$1,899
- Welding Helmets (8)
Cost..... \$2,800

Computer System



- Server
Cost..... \$4,164

Optimist Cottage Refurbishing Cost Estimates

Phase 1

Furniture: Living room/game room, dining room, bedrooms	\$22,602.00
Paint entire cottage	9,900.00
Remodel bedroom closets	4,100.00
Remodel TP Apartment	12,000.00
On demand energy efficient hot water system	5,800.00
Replace all light fixtures with energy efficient/non breakable units	4,800.00
Total Phase I	\$59,202.00

Phase II

Carpet replacement (youth residential areas)	\$9,555.00
Carpet replacement (staff apt./office)	3,900.00

Total Phase II **\$13,455.00**

Total for Project **\$72,657.00**

Funds Available **\$34,925.00**

Shortfall **\$37,925.00**

A gas grill will be raffled
off at the Convention.
Benefit B&G Home.
Tickets \$5 each

Childhood Cancer Campaign



The Octagon Club at East Chapel Hill High School has provided several meals for the Chapel Hill Ronald McDonald House. They have also helped their sponsor club (the Optimist Club of Chapel Hill) raise funds through the Kisses for Childhood Cancer Campaign. All of the club members participated in making surgery dolls for the pediatric patients at UNC and Duke hospitals. These dolls are cherished by the children and help
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Recently members of the Octagon Club at East Chapel Hill High School

held two work sessions where they made "Therapy" dolls for the kids undergoing cancer therapy at Duke and UNC Pediatric Hematology/Oncology centers. The dolls, complete with hospital gowns, are used by the childhood cancer patients and the staff at these hospitals to go over the planned therapy proce-



dures, i.e., chemotherapy, surgery, so that the kids understand and are less anxious about what will happen. The kids personalize the dolls (facial features, hair, etc) and "practice" doing the procedures on the dolls. By doing this visualization, these young patients become much better prepared to face the therapy, tension is reduced and, in some cases, outcomes may be improved.

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them cope with their treatments. The young male patients like the fact that the dolls also wear hospital gowns, just as the kids do.

The Chapel Hill Club has recently received an update on the Healing and Hope Through Science Program that they have helped fund at UNC and Duke hospitals. It is also sponsored by the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Katie Vogel, program director and educator, and several volunteers take hands-on science projects to the patients in the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit and the pediatric play-



rooms. Monthly events are also held at Duke Gardens for the patients and their families. "Crazy Katie" was also featured as Tar Heel of the Week on October 11, 2009 by The News and Observer. She will present her program to the American Public Gardens Association National Conference in Atlanta this year. Her wish is to take this program to the national level. She has received a \$200,000 grant for three years. The newspaper article credited the Chapel Hill Optimist Club as an early donor to the project.

Several clubs have had Kisses for Childhood Cancer fundraisers. This spring the North Raleigh Optimist Club held several collections and raised \$1,200. The Optimist Club of Wake Forest raised \$158.51 at the local Wal-Mart and \$215.12 at a community event where they passed out candy Kisses and club information. The Chapel Hill club has raised \$4,675.36 to date with one more event yet to go.

Don't forget to enter a duck in the duck race at the July OI Convention. At this time there are few entrants in the race, so your chances of winning are very good. The cost of a duck is \$10 and you don't have to attend to be a winner. I will have entry blanks available at the district meeting. Money raised from the duck race will fund the matching grants program. There are prizes for 1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50), and 3rd (\$25).

Does your club have an idea for a childhood cancer project? Do you need funding to make it happen? Apply to the matching grants program to help make your project a reality. I have the forms and information you need to get started.

Clubs and individuals can still donate funds to the CCC through the OI Foundation. Money can be designated for the research project at Johns Hopkins or the matching grant program for CCC project development. Why donate to the Childhood Cancer Campaign? Because childhood cancer is the #1 killer of children under age 21. It affects 1 out of 330 children in the U.S. and kills 1 out of 5 of those diagnosed. The treatment takes about four years at a cost of about \$500,000. Optimist International adopted the Childhood Cancer Campaign as the flagship youth program to rid the world of childhood cancer. The motto of this program is "Providing the care, Finding the cure". If not for the people, foundations, corporations and organizations funding the research, we would not have the treatments and vaccines against

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such devastating diseases as polio, measles, and smallpox that we take for granted today. Someday this disease will be as preventable as these others.

Thanks to everyone for all your efforts to make the Childhood Cancer Campaign a success.

Trish Verne
CCC Chairperson, NC East District

District Membership

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- OI Lapel Pin - Gold

* Five New Members or BOE (Builder of Excellence)

- Mid-Atlantic Region Pin

* OI Milestones for new Members

- 10 Silver Pin
- 25 Gold Pin w/one Diamond
- 50 Gold Pin w/two Diamonds
- 75 Gold Pin w/three Diamonds
- 100 Gold Pin w/four Diamonds
- etc. on up to 250

Note: FOO (Friend of Optimist) counts same as sponsoring a Club Member. Also counts toward District total and Club total if you so designate.

1st place recruiter (15 member minimum)

- \$1000 CASH!
- Plaque signifying accomplishment

2nd place recruiter (8 member minimum)

- \$500 CASH!

3rd place recruiter (5 member minimum)

- \$200 CASH!

"Governor's Challenge" Recruiting incentive

- Recruit more members than the Governor and win a stainless steel grill or \$300 cash (one prize only for the highest total)



Bennie Bass, membership Chairman.

Mile of Hope, a project of 7 NCE Optimist Clubs

20th Mile of Hope Luau Was a Great Success!

The 20th anniversary of the Mile of Hope was held on May 7-9, 2010 at Atlantic Beach and Pine Knolls Shores. Mile of Hope is a Childhood Cancer Campaign event hosted by the Optimist Club of Raleigh. This event sponsors families that have a child with cancer to a great weekend at the beach. What makes this event so unique is that we invite the entire immediate family of the sick child. Most similar programs primarily work only with the child with cancer. But when a family has a child stricken with cancer the entire family, especially brothers and sisters, is affected. It is our hope that we provide a bit of normalcy and a lot of fun for the entire family for a weekend as they get away from the rigors of chemotherapy and a hospital environment.



This year, a total of 128 family members and hospital staff from 21 families enjoyed our Luau weekend's activities and great food! The families that attended were from all over eastern North Carolina and were selected by the Pediatric Oncology units at ECU Brody School of Medicine, Duke Children's Hospital, and UNC Children's hospital.



2010 Mile of Hope



The Luau started on Friday evening at the Hampton Inn with a pizza dinner, coloring family banners, face (and sometimes whole bald head!) painting, and fish printing on T-shirts courtesy of the NC Aquarium. Saturday began with breakfast at the Channel Marker restaurant, followed by the families

building sandcastles on the beach in front of the Atlantis Lodge. We took a group picture and had lunch provided by the Carteret Optimist Club. In the afternoon, the Discovery Diving team from Beaufort brought all their diving equipment to the Hampton Inn pool to



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let the families experience scuba diving. Saturday evening, we enjoyed a catered Luau-style pig pickin' and then ended the night at the Lost Treasure Golf and Raceway Park for miniature golf, bumper boats, and go-carts. Throughout the weekend, we had a group of pirates that visited with the kids and put on sword fighting demonstrations. The pirates are members of the Shadow Players located in Raleigh.



On Sunday, we enjoyed a pancake breakfast at the NC Aquarium. And since Sunday was Mother's Day, we honored all mothers present with a hibiscus flower to wear in their hair. We had a visit from Tracy Williams, a former Harlem Globetrotter.



He involved the kids in some basketball antics before closing with an inspirational message and presenting the 'game ball' to one of our young patients. Finally, the families toured the Aquarium before going back to their hotel to check out.

Of course we could not have held the Mile of Hope without the many volunteers that were there to assist. There were 18 Optimists and wives/husbands from 6 clubs in the NC East District present to assist with the activities. Those Optimists present included NC East Governor Auston Pusey and wife Alice, Governor-Elect Lou Anna Hardee and husband Curtis, and immediate Past-Governor Barbara Timmons and Ronnie McLamb. In addition, several other clubs from the East District provided financial assistance. The following clubs provided volunteers and/or financial assistance to the Mile of Hope this year: Optimist Club of Raleigh, North Raleigh Optimist Club, Raleigh Dinner Club, Optimist Club of Chapel Hill, Wilmington Club, Optimist Club of Goldsboro, and Cape Fear Optimist Club.

Now it's on to the 2011 Mile of Hope! Mark your calendars for May 6-8 and plan to get involved!

Gary Turner

919.851.9101 (home)

919.622.4730 (cell)

FIRST QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

City Hotel & Bistro – Greenville, N.C.

Saturday, February 13, 2010

NC East District Board Meeting

The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

Auston Pusey, Lou Anna Hardee, Allan Ludlum, Barbara Timmons, Dan Durham, Tom Lamont, Don Harritan, Gary Pender, Linda Watson, Carey Foster.

Clubs Represented: Cape Fear-Wilmington Optimist, Chapel Hill Optimist, Elizabethtown, Garner Optimist, Golden Circle Optimist Club Of Wilson, Goldsboro Optimist, Greenville Optimist, Henderson Optimist, North Raleigh Optimist, Optimist club of the Port City, Raleigh Optimist, Roanoke Rapids Optimist, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist, Supper-Wilmington Optimist, Wake Forest Optimist, Whiteville Optimist, Wilmington Optimist, Wilson Evening Optimist, Winter Park-Wilmington Optimist

Governor Auston Pusey called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag by Auston Pusey & the invocation was given by Billy Edgerton.

Governor Auston Pusey recognized first time attendees and introduced Mayor Pat Dunn who welcomed all to Greenville. Auston also introduced the Castle Bay Staff.

1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting report, given by Allan Ludlum. Motion to accept was made by Gary Pender of Goldsboro – Seconded by Don Harritan - Whiteville - Approved.

1st Quarter Financial report, given by Allan Ludlum. Motion to accept was made by Carey Foster of Roanoke Rapids – Seconded by Barbara Timmons of North Raleigh - Approved.

NC East Web Site information, given by Allan Ludlum.

Leadership Development Plan was reported on by Darrell Fulcher. Darrell also provided information about upcoming events for Leadership Development.

News Bulletin information, given by Wayne Sidelinger.

2009-10 1st Qtr A&A Awards were handed out by Dan Durham reported on 2nd quarter A&A report changes.

Childhood Cancer Campaign & Roll Call information, given by Trish Verne.

2009-10 OI Foundation Friday night auction raised \$1040.00. Other information & Roll Call was given by Bill Edgerton.

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CCDHH information, also given by Bill Edgerton. Contest will be at the Wilson School of the Deaf, May 20, 2010.

OI Convention/Ambassador – Carey Foster talked about the 2010 OI Convention.

JOOI Clubs report given by Sandy Cyphers.

Essay Contest information & remarks given by Yancey Hines.



Castle Branch Company talked about what their company could offer the Optimist clubs that needed to perform background checks.

New Club Building report & updates, given by Barbara Timmons.

Candidate Qualifications information, given by Barbara Timmons.

Boys and Girls Homes report & Roll Call, given by Gary Pender & Tom Lamont.

PGI report & updates, given by Sandy Cyphers.

Oratorical Contest information & remarks given by Gov-Elect, Lou Anna Hardee.

Membership report, given by Bennie Bass. Auston reminded everyone about the incentives for this year.

2010 NC East Convention information was given by Darrell Fulcher, more information to follow as dates get closer.

Junior Golf report, given by Allan Ludlum, Location & dates have been set & info was on the NC east web site.

Remarks from Governor-Elect Lou Anna Hardee.

Closing remarks by Gov. Auston Pusey.

Meeting closed with the Optimist Creed by membership.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Allan Ludlum
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.



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

