



North Carolina East Optimist News

Greetings Fellow Optimists,

It is with mixed emotions that I write my final newsletter message as Governor. What a year of growth and service our District is having! We've achieved so much in the past eleven months and I appreciate the hard work many of you have put in to make our District successful. Attending club meetings and special events has made my year as Governor very enjoyable and took the edge off the hard work.



As of this writing, we are still the number one District with a net growth of 179 members (115.6%). Many of our members accepted the challenges of attaining the next recruiting milestone and recruiting incentives and it's paid dividends. I hope you have taken pride in our accomplishments and the fact that we are being recognized internationally. While I'm happy with where we are, I'm not satisfied and we need to keep pushing to be a leader in

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growth for the sake of our District and Organization. Most importantly, we are phenomenally responsible for helping over 6,000 more kids through our growth. We are truly the "Friend of Youth". I'm especially proud of our two new clubs, the Optimist Club of the Port City and Duplin Optimist Club. They are a major factor in our District's success and have made a huge impact in their respective communities.

I hope everyone enjoys our second consecutive convention in Myrtle Beach. The staff at Bay Watch has been very accommodating and willing to go beyond the call of duty to make our stay a pleasant experience. Please take time to thank and let them know how much we appreciate what they do for us.

This year, we have the privilege of having newly elected board member, Chris Jernigan, our OI Representative, and his wife Marlene, as our guests. Please join me in welcoming them. Chris is a past member of the Whiteville Club, so our Convention will serve as a homecoming of sorts.

Please take advantage of the training and activities our Convention committee has planned for the weekend. We want our Convention to be a memorable one, especially for first timers, so that you will plan to return next year.

In closing, I'm very appreciative of the confidence you had in me to lead the NC East District this year. Our success has been the result of a great team effort and I've done my best to give you your due recognition. Again, thanks for your support. With mixed emotions, I accept my new title effective October 1st as Immediate Past Governor of the NC East District. Since our mission was to grow our District, I'll conclude with these parting words "Remember, Membership is an honor and privilege....so SHARE it".

NC EAST DISTRICT 2009 – 2010 "First in Flight, First in Youth Services"

Yours in Optimism,

Auston Pusey
Governor NC East District 2009 - 2010

Over the past couple months, Optimist International has turned our membership numbers around and has the momentum headed in the right direction heading into the new Optimist year. A lot of the credit for this upswing is the recruiting incentive dating back to February 22, 2010. Recruit 4 new members into your club and receive FREE International dues next year. A lot of clubs are actually enhancing this incentive and picking up the tab for the remaining amount of your yearly dues to where your dues are totally free.

I encourage each club to adopt a recruiting incentive within your club to reward those who put in the extra effort to recruit new members. There is no better investment than to invest in your membership. If you're having trouble recruiting members because they don't want to attend weekly club meetings, I encourage you to recruit them as a Friend of Optimist. There's a lot of people who are willing to support us if you just ask.

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Recruiting incentives for 2010 - 2011 will be announced soon.

Auston Pusey
Membership chair 2010-2011

2nd Quarter A&A Winners

Top Ten Clubs



From left: No. 10, Earl Warren, Rocky Mount Evening; No. 9, Cathy Potter, Wake Forest; No. 8, Maurice Nicholson, Goldsboro; No. 7, Barbara Timmons, North Raleigh; No. 6, Bob Verne, Raleigh; No. 5, Phil Best, Winter Park; No. 4, Beth Anderson, Chapel Hill; No. 3, Lillianne Kepley, Port City; No. 2, Bobby Hensley, Whiteville; No. 1, Robin Bass, Cape Fear

Top Clubs in Each Zone

Zone 1, Cape Fear;
Zone 2, Whiteville;
Zone 3, Goldsboro
Zone 4, Golden Circle
Zone 5, Rocky Mount Evening
Zone 6, Chapel Hill

Top Lt. Governors



From left:
No. 3, Carey Foster,
Lt. Gov. Zone 5;
No. 2, Tom Lamont,
Lt. Gov. Zone 1;
No. 1, Bob Verne,
Lt. Gov. Zone 6.

Dan Durham
District A&A Chair



District Club Services



CLUB SERVICES CHAIRMAN

Ed Taylor
2813 Jason Drive
Rocky Mount, NC 27803
Home Phone: 252-443-7523
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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 your club's Officer Elect Report has not been submitted, please submit immediately with copy to Governor Elect Lou Anna Hardee as this report is crucial for completion of the 2010-2011 District Directory.***

Please note that the following will be due by September 30, 2010 to qualify as an Honor/ Distinguished Club. September 30th is upon us so please act today.

- Finances: to Optimist International by September 30, 2010
- Complete three service projects & submit a minimum of **one CPA entry** to the Activities Chairman.
- Submit Officer-Elect Report by May 20, 2010; **submit President's Pride report by September 30, 2010.**
- The **President's Pride report is available on the Optimist International website.** I will have some available at the Convention if you need one.

Your work in promoting Optimism in your communities is appreciated.
Ed Taylor

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:
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.*

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.



Childhood Cancer Campaign



Congratulations and thanks to all the clubs that have collected funds for childhood cancer by organizing golf tournaments and Kisses collections. Contributions have been down due to the economy, but every little bit helps.

The Henderson Club has been supporting two families that have a child being treated for childhood cancer. The Chapel Hill Club will be making donations to Duke, UNC, the research project at Johns' Hopkins, and some other area projects. The Garner Club will be sponsoring children attending Camp Rainbow. Many of the district clubs made contributions to the support of The Raleigh Club's Mile of Hope Project. Many meals have been served at the local Ronald McDonald Houses by our district clubs.

The Port City Club has established a pediatric pharmacy fund at New Hanover Regional Medical Center's Betty H. Cameron Women's and Children's Hospital - Pediatric unit. The funds are specific to pay for costs not covered by Medicaid for terminally ill, unique health/medical treatment, co-pays for low-to-no income, or long term care for children. Other Optimist clubs in the region may wish to contribute to this fund now and in the future. A similar fund could also be established at ECU, Duke and UNC to help more children. Such funds would also give us a local place to contribute the funds we raise and increase local publicity in our communities.

The OI CCC matching grant project has awarded several grants to clubs in the US this year. The maximum award is \$2,500. Many grants are for starting fund-raising projects such as galas, golf tournaments, and antique auto shows. Your club should consider applying for a grant to help fund a project that your club has been planning, but needs funds to make it happen. The project does not need to be a new project, but funds from this foundation are not to be used to fund other foundations. Contact me for the forms and any questions you may have about the grants.

We will be having a Little Yellow Duck Race at the district convention in Myrtle Beach. Time and date are to be determined. The cost of a duck is \$10 and prizes are \$100, \$50, and \$25 to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners. The funds raised will go the Childhood Cancer Campaign. Tickets can be bought in advance and you do not have to be present. Contact me for an application.



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At the July convention in Denver we saw an interview with a cancer patient being treated at Johns' Hopkins. It is a positive look at the effect of the research that is being done with our help. I have a CD of the video that I will loan to any club that would like to see it. It can be a great recruiting tool. Let me know how I can help.

Thanks again for all you do for the kids.

Trish Verne, CCC Chairman
pverne43@gmail.com
919-942-4144



COMMUNICATION CONTEST for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL 



The CCDHH District Oratorical Contest was held May 20, at the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf in Wilson. From left: Amy Runyon, Osha White, JaQuana McGargan, Roderick Goodin, Desma Richardson and Kristen Ahearn.

Desma Richardson was the winner and recipient of the \$2500 scholarship.



Billy Edgerton
CCDHH Chairman

1st Place

The Internet: Today's Evolution or Tomorrow's Menace?



The Internet is undoubtedly today's evolution, for it has instigated incredible changes to society. Using the Internet, people can instantly communicate with individuals around the globe while sitting at home, eating at an internet cafe, or even walking down the street with their Blackberry. Such interconnectedness was unimaginable only a decade ago. But the fact that the Internet is expanding into every facet of modern life does not automatically preclude it from becoming a menace to humanity. Whether the Internet ultimately improves or imperils society depends upon our wise use of the technology.

On the positive side, the Internet has made the flow of information far more fluid. Collaboration and information gathering are virtually effortless using tools such as Google and Wikipedia. Scholarly websites, such as JSTOR and Lexis Nexis, provide access to current legal and scientific articles even to those who live far from a university. I participate in competitive debate, and resources such as JSTOR have allowed me to conduct research that would have been impossible without the Internet.

Modern technology, combined with the Internet, can also solve more mundane real world problems. In Vail, Arizona, where public school students endure 70 minute bus rides, the school system installed Wi-Fi on several buses. The result was an immediate end to behavioral problems and an increase in academic productivity. Many students use the Internet connection to do research and complete class work.

But the Internet is not perfect, for it can easily become a distraction. Some of those same students, rather than doing schoolwork, play online games on the bus. The Internet is addictive to many teens, who spend "practically every waking minute - except for time in school — using ... [an] electronic device" According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study, teens pack nearly 11 hours of electronic content into 7-1/2 hours by multitasking. The study also found that the heaviest media users generally have lower grades and more social problems. Without discernment, teens are tempted by the limitless possibilities of the Internet to squander valuable time on trivialities.

In addition, while information is more readily accessible online than ever before, so is disinformation. If Internet users are not careful to fact-check claims and ensure that sources are legitimate, they can easily be misled. But if individuals use wisdom in their



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research, most disinformation can be filtered out or counteracted by a few seconds of investigation. Just as the Internet gives a venue for scammers to spread disinformation, it also gives people the tools to separate truth from fiction.

Ultimately, the Internet is what we make of it. It is a tool that can be used to construct collaborative works for good, or it can become an instrument for evil. We can employ it to find accurate information on almost any imaginable subject or to fritter away our time on trifles.

Whether the Internet will be the next and best step forward, or a dangerous development, is up to its users. The only remaining question is: what will your choice be?

2nd Place

The Internet: Today' Evolution or Tomorrows Menace?

499 words

Most people are familiar with the term "Internet". The Internet was initially developed in the early 1960s for sharing information on research and development in scientific and military fields. It did not become commonplace until the 1990s but has since evolved into a massive network for news coverage, social interaction, businesses, and entertainment that serves billions of users worldwide. However, this powerful tool is not without negative effects, and as the Internet continues to expand, there is a greater need to balance its benefits against its harms.



The Internet has assisted us in our daily lives in countless ways. Because of the Internet, we can now send virtual mails to family and friends on opposite sides of the globe instantaneously, access informational resources in a couple of clicks, shop in the comfort of our homes, use instant messaging to connect with friends, play interactive games and so on. It allows greater flexibility in working schedules and more convenience for group communications. Also, organizations can now spread their views and ideas cheaply and more widely through the use of the Internet. Numerous businesses can also use the Internet to advertise or collect information on the interests of consumers, or simply sell directly from their websites.

Although the Internet is used widely all over the globe, the younger population dominates the Internet world. In America, the highest percentage of Internet users by age groups is under 18. These children and teenagers, who grew up accustomed to the Internet, mainly use their Internet time for playing online games and social networking. As early as kindergarten, kids in school now access the Internet" using various devices for a variety of purposes... [with] online gaming [growing] increasingly popular." 71% of the 93% of American teenager users ages 13 to 17 have established online profiles. Spending too much time playing

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games and socializing online not only leads to neglected school work, but nearsightedness from staring at the computer screen for too long, and obesity as playing time outside is spent sitting instead.

The abundant resources the internet provides can help students study for their classes but can also at times render them susceptible to harmful exposure. For example, " half of teens ages 13-18 often communicate through the internet with someone they have not met in person." 1 in 3 youths have reportedly been exposed to unwanted sexual material and 1 in 11 received threats and harassment. A shocking 65% of high school students "admit to unsafe, inappropriate, or illegal activities online."

The popularity and usage of the Internet is still growing. Americans now spend an estimated average of 17 hours per week online. The Internet helps us with work, news, communication, and many other tasks. However, with so many of our young generation abusing internet usage, one must question the impact on society as today's adolescents grow into the work force of tomorrow. Will the internet continue to shine a positive light in our daily lives, or ultimately prove to be detrimental in our future?

3rd Place

The Internet: Today's Evolution or Tomorrow's Menace

With it's rolling blue waves and pale sand, there is no doubt that the ocean is beautiful. But look beneath that, even in the slightest, and the ocean is teeming with danger. The internet is the same. Under all the beauty and attraction of high-tech graphics and pretty font, it is a deadly abyss. It is full of time wasters, lies, predators, and if you are not careful, it will suck away your life.

The Internet hits people with a riptide of information, sucking them away from all they love. People can sit for hours on end, reading articles and watching videos that have no purpose while their friends, family and responsibilities slip to the wayside. The miss out on so many opportunities to interact, try new things, and better their lives because they are too busy looking at pictures of the latest celebrity goof. In a recent study, over a quarter of gamers said that the emotional highlight of their week occurred in the virtual world. The article also states that forty percent of men and fifty three percent of women say that their online friends are of equal or greater importance to them then their friends in the real world (The Wall Street Journal).



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Like waves in the ocean, the Internet can be misleading. The waves, while appearing calm and serene from afar, are actually a destructive force, upon closer examination. While the Internet can be used to find good, credible information, the good is often spammed by junk, half-truths, biased opinions, and outright lies. Anyone can post something on the Internet. Books have a much higher chance of being factually correct, as publishers do not want to risk getting bad press.

The Internet is also filled with predators, A person, who seems to be a new friend or just a person willing to give a helping hand, could actually be a shark in the shallow, waiting to strike.

Think back on all the stories of abuse and death that are linked directly to online chatting and communication. That could never happen to me, people think. Too bad these unfortunate victims thought the same. And who is to say that the newest addition to one's growing collection of online friends is really who they say they are?

The Internet can be used for good. It is full of interesting websites and charming stories. But sink even slightly deeper and see the dark depths, the dangerous whirlpools that are just waiting to suck in the unsuspecting surfer. Just ask yourself: is the Internet really worth it?

Our Newest Club; Duplin Optimist Club.



The above members of the Duplin Club attended the 3rd quarter Board meeting at the Sheraton, Research Triangle Park.

Front, l to r: Eddie Boyette Joan Williams, Lou Powell and Marsha Lewis.

Back row, l to r: Bennie Bass, Doris English, Norman English, Gary Lewis and Auston Pusey.



District Oratorical Contest



LouAnna Hardee, Chair



Boys District Oratorical Contest:

From left: Daniel Savoy, North Raleigh Optimist; Dean Hornick, Winter Park Optimist; **1st place, Michael Deluna, Wilson Evening Optimist**; Yaser Iftikhar, Laurinburg Optimist; Standing from left: Bailey Griffin, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist; John Bell, Greenville Optimist. Andre Lee-Moye, Goldsboro Optimist.



Girls District Oratorical contest:

From left, seated: Maleah Murray, Whiteville Optimist; Haley Tucker, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist; Brooke Radford, North Raleigh optimist; **1st place Dara Robinson, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist**; Standing from left: Taylor Carrere, Goldsboro Optimist; Helen Hamilton, Greenville Optimist; Christine McDow, Winter Park Optimist; Jasmine Smith, Golden Circle Optimist; Armanda Dorn, Cape Fear Optimist.



The Kent Johnson Band entertained the Optimists and guests at the 3rd quarter board meeting .

Kent's two sons, Hunter and Holden make up the threesome.

Kent is the son-in-law of Gary and Louwanna Pender.

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina

Optimist Day at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina

Saturday, March 26, 2011

**43rd Anniversary of the Optimist Cottage
Mark your calendars now to come to Boys
and Girls Homes to celebrate the renova-
tions to the Optimist Cottage.**

Friday, March 25

- Optimist Committee Meeting, 2 p.m., Chapel Fellowship Hall – Optimist Committee members district governors, and other Optimist leadership are invited.

- 2:00-2:45 p.m. - Statewide Chair Ron Jones will welcome everyone.

Information packets will be provided by Tom Lamont, including statistical information on giving in both districts. President Gary Faircloth will provide Boys and Girls Homes report which will focus on the accreditation process.

- 2:45-4:45 p.m. – Tour of Campus

- Chapel - School - Gymnasium - Vocational Facilities - Solomon Center
- Farm - Exhibition Center - Country Store - Selected girls cottage
- Flemington Hall Administration Building - Optimist Cottage

- 5 p.m. – Dinner in Optimist Cottage, spouses invited – and introductions and special comments.

Following dinner, Ron Jones will meet with committee to answer final questions.

Saturday, March 26

- 43rd Anniversary Celebration of the Optimist Cottage

- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. – Service Project

- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments in Chapel Fellowship Hall

- 10:00 a.m. – Boys and Girls Homes Program with Gary Faircloth on Boys and Girls



Tom Lamont



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Homes priorities

- 11:00 a.m. – Tours of campus
- 12:15 p.m. – Special Presentation at Optimist Cottage to celebrate the 43rd Anniversary
- 12:30 p.m. – Lunch, Chapel Fellowship Hall followed by program including children from the campus
- 2:00 p .m. – Departure

Summer went by so fast at Boys and Girls Homes. Seven of our young people graduated from high school back in May (four from Boys and Girls Homes High School on campus and three from East Columbus High School) and now another school year is already underway. Three of our graduates are enrolled at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, one of our boys is going into the army and the others have gone back to various communities in North Carolina to work or further their education.

Our 2010 soccer and volleyball seasons are underway under the direction of Jeremy Croom, our new Recreational Therapist.

President Gary Faircloth is committed to bringing back our vocational program and a Vocational Director has just been hired to rebuild the program at Boys and Girls Homes. Your Optimist Cottage is still undergoing renovations with the goal of having boys back in the cottage by October. We have painted the interior of the cottage, we have all new carpet in the cottage including the hallway, we have all new furniture for the bedrooms including beds and dressers, newly renovated closets in all the boy's bedrooms, a new ceiling in the kitchen, new furniture in the living room and game room, new light fixtures and energy efficient light bulbs throughout the cottage, we have replaced the old hot water heater tanks with the new on demand hot water heater system with boxes in the pantry and hall closet, we have put in a kitchenette for the main teaching parent apartment, and have done some work in the boy's fourth bedroom bathroom.

Thanks to Optimist for making a difference again in the lives of children! I will have more details on the renovations and other exciting news from Boys and Girls Homes at our convention in North Myrtle Beach!



Gary Pender
B&G Home Chair



NCED Optimist 2010 Convention



Darrell Fulcher, Convention Chairman

Hello and Welcome Optimist and Guest to the North Carolina East District Optimist 2010 Convention.

The 2010 Convention Committee has been hard at work planning and preparing for "YOUR" convention.

Events begin Thursday and continue through Sunday morning. Some of the things you can expect are:

- ❖ Boys & Girls Home Golf Tournament*
- ❖ New and exciting training for new officers*
- ❖ Scavenger Hunt*
- ❖ Magic Show*
- ❖ Seafood Meals and Live Music (Blues, Beach & More)*
- ❖ Stories of New and Old Optimist*
- ❖ Shopping*
- ❖ Night life at the beach and beach music*
- ❖ Banquet Photos by Yancy and Nancy Hines*
- ❖ Formal Ball and Banquet with Office Installation*
- ❖ Chris and Marlene Jernigan from NCW and OJ Rep.*
- ❖ Celebration of Service and Growth*
- ❖ "O" did I mention the Beach, the Sun and Fun*

The Bay Watch Resort in North Myrtle Beach, SC has made the resort, restaurants, meeting facilities and beaches an event you will not want to miss. Thanks go to everyone at Bay Watch Resort.

We are all excited and full of Optimism that you will make this our largest and best convention ever.

*See ya soon
Best Regards*

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

As the District Foundation Rep for this year, I want to thank each of you, individually, who have contributed to the Foundation this year. Also thanks to the clubs that have made their donations. If you are a member of the President's Club and haven't renewed for this year, please try and do so at the district meeting in September or either mail it to me. Also, if your club hasn't yet made its contribution, please bring it to the meeting or mail it to me. Our goal is to have all clubs donate at least \$365 and qualify for the banner patch. If your club donates as much as \$1,000, you can name someone as a recipient of the Christian D. Larson award. Many of you have participated in the Dime-A-Day program. If you haven't signed up for that it isn't too late. All the money raised for the Foundation goes to help with materials for all of our programs as well as funds all of the scholarships for the Essay and Oratorical contest. Any contributions you can make will be appreciated. Please bring your contributions to the September meeting or mail to me at Bill Edgerton, 118 Windyfield Drive, Goldsboro, NC 27530



OI Foundation Awards: Top from left, Receiving OIF Lithograph for exceeding \$500 donation; Whiteville, Henderson, Goldsboro and left, Raleigh.

Below from left receiving award for OIF President's Club, Darrell Fulcher, Cape Fear and Barbara Timmons, North Raleigh.

Also, receiving the Christian Larson award for donations exceeding \$1000, but not present for a picture, was Carlyle Teague, Raleigh.



Hello Fellow Optimists,

I hope each of you have had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed summer cookouts, vacations, time with family and friends, and some time for you to relax!

For me, this past year has been a fast, busy, and rewarding one. Having the opportunity to serve as the District Oratorical Chair as well as Governor-Elect was a privilege and an honor. I will treasure the many memories and experiences for a lifetime.

Under the fine leadership of Governor Auston Pusey, the NC East District increased membership and rose to the number one club in Optimist International. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!** This is a year to remember and as you have heard Governor Auston remark many times—this is not a one-year run but we want to continue that momentum into the upcoming year and the years to come. Just think about the number of young people being serving—it is amazing and we have so much more work ahead of us. Please continue recruiting new members including new Friends of Optimists and building new clubs.

The 2010-2011 Growth Team has been busy scheduling the NC East District Quarterly Meetings, Annual Convention, leadership training, and activities to be enjoyed by all members. Your attendance at these meetings is an opportunity to meet other Optimists, participate in an exchange of ideas and projects being conducted by other clubs, and take back to your club ideas and projects that might be expanded to serve youth in your community. Club officers will enjoy new streamlined and informative training sessions. Club members attending will learn more about our volunteer organization and participate in sessions designed for newcomers.

Beginning in the 2010 Fall, Optimist International will offer Parallel District Conferences in the following regions: Middle America, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, Great Plains, Southwest, and Southeast. These conferences are designed for Optimists to grow from the best training that Optimist International has to offer—agendas for current leaders, past leaders, future leaders and every Optimist member. President-Designate Danny Rogers and First Lady Jill will be in attendance at each Parallel District Conference. Mid-Atlantic Region Vice President-Designate Bob Buss has scheduled the Mid-Atlantic Parallel District Conference which consists of six districts—Kentucky-West Virginia, Capital-Virginia, Maryland-South Delaware, Tennessee, North Carolina East and North Carolina West to be held at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC, on October 15-17, 2010.



LouAnna Hardee
Governor Elect

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Note-- the Parallel District Conference **does not replace** the NC East District First Quarter Meeting scheduled for **October 29-30, 2010**, at the Sheraton Atlantic Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Atlantic Beach, NC. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend.

May each of you enjoy the NC East District Annual Convention and return home safely with renewed energy to serve as “Friends of Youth.” Our challenges are many but through everyone’s efforts, we will continue to be the number one district in Optimist International!

Yours in Optimism,

Lou Anna Hardee

Lou Anna Hardee
2009-2010 Governor-Elect and Oratorical Chair
NC East District, Optimist International

Pictures of Denver convention by Carey Foster



Congratulations to
Billy and Jan Edgerton
who received the Order of the Longleaf Pine,
the highest civilian honor in North Carolina,
for their years of volunteering.
We are so proud of them!



Builder of Excellence Award

From left; Tom Lamont and Sandy Cyphers receive Builder of Excellence awards from OI President, Mark Shriver and NCE Governor Auston Pusey, for building the Port City Optimist Club.

District New Club Building

Greetings to NC East District Optimists!

Can you believe it is already district convention time! This certainly has been a great year in GROWTH for the #1 NC East District! AND we are not through yet! Many efforts are still underway to add members and Build New Clubs for our kids!

Our district certainly has many opportunities and needs for the children in communities that currently do not have an Optimist Club presence. I can name a few – can you? I encourage you to just look around at the different communities that do not have an Optimist Club – **do you know people in these communities? Would you make contact with these people? Do you know what it would mean to a child for you to reach out to them? What a wonderful difference just one phone call could make!** It is up to YOU!

Our district is very fortunate in that we have many people that are available to help build the new club and follow up on personal contacts. We have many past governors, many district chair people, many faithful club members – all of which can come together to make a difference in the life of a child! You have heard it many times before – all you have to do is “*just ask*”!

At last year’s convention, new club commitments were made! There are people in our district working on these clubs in Durham, Fuquay-Varina, New Bern, Kinston - just to name a few. Do you have relatives living in these communities – do you have friends living in these communities? **If you would just make that contact**, many of our District Optimist, and I, will be more than glad to follow-up on these contacts.

In doing the research of needs for these communities – you would be surprised just how much these communities would benefit from having an Optimist Club in order to help these children! Projects from Back-Pack-Buddies, mentoring, academic challenges to take a kid fishing – all of these are designed to help children – to make a difference in the life of a child! **Isn’t that what we as Optimist do best!**

I look forward to hearing from you! Our children need YOUR help!

Yours in Optimism,

Barbara Timmons

NCB Chair - 2009 - 2010



NCE Bulletin
Issued Quarterly: Oct., Jan., Apr., Aug.
Published by Wayne Sidelinger,
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2011 Essay Contest

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

How to Enter

Interested students prepare an essay on the pre-assigned topic and submit it to their local Optimist Club. The essays are judged at the Club level and then at the District level. All participants must submit their entries through their local Optimist clubs.



Applications, official rules and a program guide are available from the Optimist International website. The official Club Essay Contest program planning guide contains full instructions and planning materials for organizing and conducting your Club's Essay Contest. The planning guide includes a copy of the entry application and official rules. It will be available on the Optimist International website by late September. Look in www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm

A package of materials on how to plan for the Essay Contest is available on the Package Programs page of the website: www.optimist.org/e/member/programs5.cfm. Here, Clubs can find useful materials that will help them organize and run their Essay Contest program. Note: Final versions of the program package will be available by late September.

Eligibility

Contestants shall be under the age of 19 years as of December 31, 2010 and must be educated in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean. There is no minimum age. See the official contest rules for additional eligibility requirements.

Topic

For the 2010-2011 contest, the topic is: "**How My Education is the Key to a Successful Future**".

Length of Essay

The essay must be between 700 and 800 words in length.

Scholarship Amount

A \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to the District winner.

Key Dates

- **February 28, 2011** - Deadline for when entries must be received by the District contest chair. Entries must include all of the following three documents:
 1. Copy of the application
 2. Copy of the applicant's birth certificate
 3. A typed, double-spaced copy of the essay.
- **May 21, 2011** - The District essay contest winner will be announced at the 3rd quarter District meeting.

Some Hints on Getting Oratorical Contest Candidates

1. **START EARLY!** Most public, private and charter schools set their curriculums and select their educational projects over the summer or early in the first part of the academic year. This requires clubs to make these contests known to the faculty and staff at or before this time. Note that the Optimist Essay Contest is recommended by both the **National Association of Secondary School Principals** and the **American Association of School Administrators**. This endorsement can go a long way when your Club is requesting that principals and teachers offer this program to their students.
2. Contacts for each of the North Carolina public schools can be found at the **NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI)** web site. The directory for DPI and school district staff and school principals is located at:
www.ncpublicschools.org/nceddirectory/

A directory providing contacts for the each of the NC charter schools can be found at **www.ncpublicschools.org/charterschools/schools/**

A directory providing contacts for the each of the private schools in North Carolina can be found at the **NC Department of Non-Public Schools** web site. For the directory, go to **www.ncdnpe.org/hhh118.aspx**

3. Many clubs have had good success in getting contest candidates through their home school organizations. Because the families who home school their children are usually more flexible in their curriculums, they are often open to trying something new. Check out the website for **North Carolinians for Home Education** at **www.nche.com**. Also found there is contact information for the home school support groups for individual counties. For the name of the regional director for your area, go to the *Homeschool Resource Guide* at **www.nche.com/hrg**
4. News releases are a good way to announce your upcoming contest and to recognize the winners (and publicize your Club's efforts) after the contest. A variety of sample news releases are available on the O.I. website. All you have to do is fill in the blanks! The Essay Contest news releases can be found at the following location:
<http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm>
5. You can inform the public of the availability of the contest through a public service announcement (PSA) on your local community radio station. A 30-second PSA on the Essay Contest can be downloaded from the O.I. website and delivered to the station. The PSA is located at: **www.optimist.org/e/member/marketing4.cfm**

For more information, contact your District Essay Contest Chair:

Bob Verne

6803 Turkey Farm Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Res.: 919-942-4144
Cell: 919-619-2969
Email: rverne44@gmail.com

P. G. I. PERSONAL GROWTH AND IN- VOLVEMENT

Being involved with the P.G.I. Program offers optimists the opportunity to grow while advancing through the ten levels of service, fellowship and personal growth.

Members involved in the P.G.I. Program can advance and grow at their own desired pace.



GOALS OF THE P.G.I. PROGRAM ARE:

- To allow participants to be recognized and appreciated for personal accomplishments.
- To give members a program that will give them the opportunity to participate in long-term involvement.
- To give each member the responsibility of his/her own involvement in the club's activities.
- To offer personal growth to all Optimist members.

Get involved today...grow with OPTIMISM. Set your goals to be an achiever..start the climb..**You'll be glad you did.**

Congratulations to **Al Ludlum** for achieving **LEVEL X** and being recognized on stage by International President Mark Shriver at the International Convention in Denver.

Waiting for approval for recognition for **Level X** is **Bennie Bass**.

Other optimists that are working towards the **Level X** are **Dan Durham, Billy Edgerton, Don Harritan, Judy Harritan, Auston Pusey and Barbara Timmons**.

Sandy Cyphers
District P.G.I. Chairman

J.O.O.I. JUNIOR OPTIMIST OCTAGON INTERNATIONAL

During our years as teens (for those of us that are considered senior citizens) we did not have the venue to learn skills such as citizenship, teamwork, communication, self-esteem and leadership. But, Kids today do! Through the Optimists' J.O.O.I. program more that 16,000 young people each year learn the importance of volunteerism and giving of one's self. By doing so reports show that kids and teens report feeling an improved sense of kindness, increased awareness for those in need, and a better sense of coping with cultural diversity.



With these positive reports... What are we waiting for? Why are we not building J.O.O.I Clubs for the KIDS, who are the future leaders of our country. By building and teaching KIDS about Optimism we can be assured our organization will continue to exist for other generations.

Get started TODAY!

Sandy Cyphers



Receiving special awards from OI VP David Prather:: Zone 1, Lt. Gov. Tom Lamont; Sandy Cyphers; Winter Park; Zone 2, Elizabethtown, Rachael Mitchell; Zone 2, Lt. Gov. Don Harritan; Zone 1; Cape Fear, Bennie Bass and OI VP, David Prather.



The head table at work, 3rd quarter Board meeting. OI Pres. Mark Shriver; Gov. Auston Pusey, Past Gov. Barbara Timmons, Sec. Al Ludlum.

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
 - 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



Bennie Bass, membership Chairman.

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)

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

THIRD QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center – RTP
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

May 22, 2010

The following members of the Board of Directors
were present:

Governor Auston Pusey
Governor Lou Anna Hardee
Governor-Elect Allan Ludlum
District Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Timmons
Immediate Past Governor Dan Durham
Past Governor Tom Lamont
Lt. Governor Zone 1 – Winter Park Don Harritan
Lt. Governor Zone 2 – Whiteville Gary Pender
Lt. Governor Zone 3 - Goldsboro Linda Watson
Lt. Governor Zone 4 – Golden Circle Carey Foster
Lt. Governor Zone 5 – Roanoke Rapids Robert Verne
Lt. Governor Zone 6 – Chapel Hill

Guest from Optimist International – President Mark Shriver and Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Region, David L. Prather.

Clubs Represented: Cape Fear-Wilmington Optimist,



Optimist International President, Mark Shriver and Patricia were the guests of the NCE District for the 3rd Quarter Board meeting, May 21-22



David Prather, VP Mid Atlantic Region

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Chapel Hill Optimist, Duplin Optimist, Elizabethtown, Golden Circle Optimist Club Of Wilson, Goldsboro Optimist, Greenville Optimist, Henderson Optimist, North Raleigh Optimist, Optimist club of the Port City, Roanoke Rapids Optimist, Rocky Mount Evening Optimist, Roxboro Optimist, Wake Forest Optimist, Whiteville Optimist, Wilmington Optimist, Wilson Evening Optimist, Winter Park-Wilmington Optimist

Governor Auston Pusey called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag by Gary Pender & the invocation was given by Billy Edgerton.

Governor Auston Pusey recognized first time attendees and introduced Guest International President Mark Shriver & International Vice President- Mid Atlantic Region-2010-2011 Bob Buss.

2nd Quarter Board of Directors meeting report, given by Allan Ludlum. Motion to accept made by Sandy Cyphers – Winter Park – Seconded by Gary Pender of Goldsboro - Approved.

2nd Quarter Financial report, given by Allan Ludlum. Motion to accept made by Sandy Cyphers – Winter Park – Seconded by Linda Watson of Golden Circle - Wilson - Approved.

Directions for the Oratorical Contest given by Chairperson, Lou Anna Hardee.

Club Services report given by Ed Taylor.

CCDHH update given by Bill Edgerton. Contest was at the Wilson School of the Deaf, May 13, 2010. Bill gave an update on the 2009-10 OI Foundation & Roll Call.

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

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

Update From Doug Lamm on the 2009-10 CPA Awards.

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

Internet Safety report given by Maurice Nicholson.

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

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News Bulletin information, given by Wayne Sidelinger.

International Vice President- Mid Atlantic Region-2009-2010 David L. Prather handed out membership awards.

New Club Building report & updates, given by Barbara Timmons, We need to build ONE more club.

International Vice President- Mid Atlantic Region-2010-2011 Bob Buss highlighted the upcoming year for the region.

2010 NC East Convention information & update given by Darrell Fulcher.

Leadership Development Plan was reported on by Darrell Fulcher.

9:40 – 11:40 Break for District Oratorical Contest.

2009-10 2nd Qtr A&A Awards were handed out by Dan Durham reported on 3rd quarter A&A report changes.

Elections held for the 2010-2011 Lt. Governors.

The following were elected:

Tom Lamont	Lt. Governor Zone 1 – Winter Park
Rachel Mitchell	Lt. Governor Zone 2 – Elizabethtown
Joann Williams	Lt. Governor Zone 3 - Goldsboro
Linda Watson	Lt. Governor Zone 4 – Golden Circle
Tommy Peele	Lt. Governor Zone 5 – Rocky Mount Evening
No one was elected	Lt. Governor Zone 6

Remarks given by each of the following: International President Mark Shriver, International Vice President- Mid Atlantic Region-2009-2010 David L. Prather & International Vice President- Mid Atlantic Region-2010-2011, Bob Buss.

Closing remarks by Gov. Auston Pusey.

Meeting closed with the Optimist Creed by membership.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.

Allan Ludlum
District Secretary-Treasurer



**MID-ATLANTIC
PARALLEL
DISTRICT CONFERENCE**
**Something New is
Happening in October**

Autumn in the Smokies

Asheville, North Carolina

October 15-17, 2010

Kentucky-West Virginia, Capital-Virginia, Maryland-South Delaware, Tennessee, North Carolina East and North Carolina West Districts which make up the **Mid Atlantic Region** will meet at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville for a **Parallel District Conference**.

The weekend will be filled with workshops, training, fellowship, and district meetings. It will be a chance to learn more about “Bringing Out The Best In Kids”.

Optimist International President Danny Rodgers and First Lady Jill will be there and are looking forward to meeting each of you.

There are tours (Biltmore House discount coupons will be in registration packet, Downtown Asheville, etc.) and trolley service (Biltmore Village Shops, Grove Arcade, Downtown, etc.) available from the Visitors Center (the hotel shuttle will take you there) or you can explore Asheville, the Blue Ridge Parkway (celebrating 75 years) and the surrounding area on your own.

Hotel room rate is \$109.00 plus taxes per night. Rate will apply three days before conference as well as three days after conference. Make your reservation by calling 1-888-233-9527. This is a great opportunity to make a long weekend or a mini fall vacation during peak time in the Smokies.

Plan on attending – share your knowledge with other Optimists – meet and leave with new friendships you have made.

Cut off for room reservations is September 30th, 2010. Registration must be in the hands of the registrar by October 8, 2010.

If you have any questions contact your Governor-Designate or me.

Bob Buss
Vice President 2010-2011
865-932-2915
smokymtns98@bellsouth.net

**MID-ATLANTIC
PARALLEL DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Asheville, North Carolina
Agenda**

Friday, October 15

1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Registration
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Workshops
2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Workshops
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Time – Patio / Poolside - Cash Bar and Snacks
DINNER on your own – enjoy the many restaurants Asheville has to offer
8:00 – 9:30 p.m. District Executive Committee meetings
District Hospitality Rooms

Saturday, October 16

6:30 - 11 a.m. Breakfast Buffet– Pro’s Table Restaurant - coupon in registration packet
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Registration
8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Opening Mid Atlantic Region Conference
Invocation
Flag – R.O.T.C.
Optimist Creed
Introductions of District Governors
Announcements
8:45 - 9:15 a.m. O.I. President Danny Rodgers
Installation of District Officers, Club Presidents
9:15 - 9:45 a.m. O.I. Foundation
9:50 - 10:50 a.m. Workshops
10:55 - 11:55 a.m. Workshops
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH – Overlook - registration badge will be admittance
1:15 – 3:15 p.m. District Meetings
3:30 Mid Atlantic Conference Resumes
3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Growth Ideas - Essie Johnson and Aaron Kaskowitz
4:00 - 4:20 p.m. International Convention - Baltimore - Dennis Lane
4:20 - 5:00 p.m. Bless Your Heart - Danny Rodgers
7:00 p.m. Dinner- Mt. Roan / Mitchell - registration badge will be admittance
9:00 p.m. District Hospitality Rooms

Sunday, October 17, 2010

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6:30 - 11:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast- Pro's Table Restaurant - coupon in registration packet

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Mid Atlantic Conference Conclusion

Devotions

Questions & Answer Time - Conference Staff

Optimist Creed

Workshops

E-Optimist How to be a great Lt. Governor Navigating the O.I. Website

Club Meeting Fun and Fellowship Club Secretary / Treasurer Club Foundation Representatives

NOW Optimist 101 President to President

Did You Get My Message? JOOI New Club Building - Membership -

History of Optimist Programs Internet Safety Get to Know Your Data Base

Personal Growth and Development (PGI) Childhood Cancer

MID-ATLANTIC PARALLEL DISTRICT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

October 15 – 17, 2010

Crowne Plaza Resort - Asheville, North Carolina

Member's Form

Club Name _____ Club No _____ Zone
No. _____

Member Name _____ Nickname _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____

District Name _____ 10-11 Office: r Gov. r District Sec./Treas r Gov-
Elect r Lt. Gov.

r Club President r Club Sec./Treas. r Past Gov. r

Other _____

Non-Optimist Spouse / Guest Name (only if attending) _____

Children's Names (only if attending) _____

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Optimist Spouse's Form

Club Name _____ Club No _____ Zone

No. _____

Member Name _____ Nickname _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____

District Name _____

10-11 Office: r Gov. r District Sec./Treas r Gov-Elect r Lt. Gov.

r Club President r Club Sec./Treas. r Past Gov. r

Other _____

Quantity Registration Total _____

Registration - Adults _____ \$100.00 _____

Registration - Children (11 & under) _____ \$50.00 _____

Total Amount _____

Registration Form must be in the hands of the Registrar by October 8. No onsite registration due to meal counts.

Return form and check made payable to the Optimist Club of Knoxville to: Method of Payment:

Check # _____

Cash _____

Registration includes: Friday Meet & Greet (Cash Bar), Saturday Buffet Breakfast, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Dinner, Sunday Buffet Breakfast. - A special children's plate will be served at Lunch and Dinner.

Dave Harter, PDC Registrar

7616 Navarre Drive

Knoxville, TN 37919-7118

Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville, NC \$109.00 + tax per night

Reserve Room by calling hotel direct (888) 233-9527

1 Resort Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

Remember to tell them you are with the "Optimist Mid-Atlantic"

Cut off date is September 30, 2010.

This is final to get the room rate and to be guaranteed a room at the Resort!

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

