

# North Carolina East Optimist News

Hello Fellow Optimists!

We are beyond the halfway point in this Optimist Year. I personally want to THANK YOU for all you do as Optimists in your Communities, Right Here Right Now.

The Good News is we are back as the Number 2 District in Optimist International! There is a tremendous amount of enthusiasm throughout our District and it shows in membership growth and retention. As a reminder the district has a lot of incentives for adding members, completing your A&A reports and completing your next step in the PGI program.

The Great News: NEW CLUBS!!!! We have built two new clubs so far - Blackbird Optimist Club of Rocky Mount & Mahler Thorp International Sports Club. Thanks go out to Linda Shepard and Charles Dunn for the Blackbird Optimist Club and David Hodges for the Mahler Thorp International Sports Club

The month of May is significant for the North Carolina East District in several ways. We will wel-

come our Optimist International Vice President Mark Harris & his wife Fran at our Third quarter meeting. Mark will be here to give us an update on OI projects and goals and to answer any questions you have! During the Third Quarter District Meeting we will conduct the District Oratorical Contest. Darrell Fulcher and his oratorical team will get the ball rolling on Saturday. The Oratorical contest is truly an event you do not want to miss. We always witness a great group of gifted youth competing to represent the District. We completed the District Essay Contest and the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) in April. At lunch we will hear from the District Essay and the CCDHH winners!



As a District we will stay busy with the Junior Golf Qualifier (OIJGC) on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Rocky Mount at three courses. So mark your calendar, call David Hodg-

es and sign up to help!

The District Convention will follow August 25 - 28 at the Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach. Make your plans to attend soon. This is the second year for the Convention at this location. I am sure you will enjoy it. We are putting the final details on this event over the next few months. It will be a great time with just enough training scheduled to benefit everyone who attends. I am sure Sandy, our convention chairperson will keep us excited and busy during the district convention.

We still have Goals to complete and the game is not over yet! You want to build another club? Call Angela, She has people to help! Want to add members? Call Austin! Need PGI help? Call Sandy! Your club needs to get FIT? Call Lou Anna!

With everyone helping, we can .....  
**"Right Here. Right Now. Being a Friend of Youth in Our Communities"**

Thanks,

*Allen Latham*

## First Timers at 2nd Quarter Board Meeting



Toni Welborn and Kianna Wood, Elm City Optimist

Westley Ferrell, Wilson Evening

## First Timers at 2nd Quarter Board Meeting



Eddie & Ginger Moore, Greenville Optimist

Jeanette Ferrell, Golden Circle

# J.O.O.I.

## JUNIOR OPTIMIST OCTAGON INTERNATIONAL

Years ago we were in our teens dreaming and thinking of what our future would entail, college, marriage, career, travel and yes children.

Many individuals our age were not fortunate enough to have the opportunity and venue to learn skills such as citizenship, teamwork, communications, self-esteem and leadership through involvement in school, youth organizations or athletics. After school recessed for the day we had to rush home to help with chores around the house, work on the farm or had a part time job. But our youth of today do! Through the Optimists' J.O.O.I programs more than 15,000 young people throughout the United States, Canada and Caribbean each year learn the important of volunteerism and giving of one's self. By volunteering, reports show that youth report feeling an improved sense of kindness, increased awareness for those in need, a better sense of self-esteem, and an overall better sense of coping with cultural diversity.

With positive reports such as these...WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? WHAT CONTINUES TO KEEP US FROM

**BUILDING J.O.O.I CLUBS FOR THE YOUTHS?** Children are the future leaders of this country. By building and teaching the youth about Optimism we can be assured our organization will continue to exist for other generations. We along with them can leave a legacy of this organization for future generations.

Lets get started TODAY....don't put off tomorrow what we can do today...

I will be glad to assist any club with their endeavor to grow a J.O.O.I. Club...all you have to do is call and ask.

J.O.O.I. District Chairman  
Sandy Cyphers  
**910-367-3295**



## Top 3 Clubs 2014-2015



No. 1 club; South Johnson, Jerry Medlin, President; No. 2 club, Wilmington Cape Fear, Auston Pusey; No. 3 club, Wilson Golden Circle, Brenda Farmer, President.

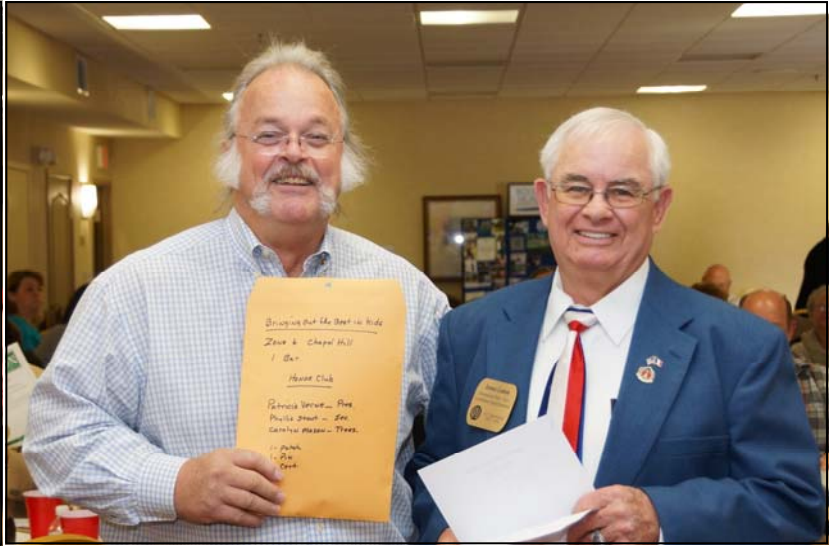


# 2014-2015 Awards

## Honor Clubs



Greenville: President Curtis Hardee; Secretary, LouAnna Hardee.



Chapel Hill: Accepting Lt. Gov. Gary Pender. Absent were President Trish Verne and Secretary, Phyllis Stout



Goldsboro; President Raymond Clark; Secretary Dawn Clark.



Golden Circle; Angela Iwaniuk, Treasurer; Carol Collier, Secretary; Brenda Farmer, President.



Raleigh; Carlyle Teague, President; Not present, Dayne Brown, Secretary; David Fritz, Treasurer.



South Johnston; Paulette Bradley, Secretary, Jerry Medlin, President.



# 2014-2015 Special Governor Awards



Secretary's Awards; Angela Iwaniuk, District Secretary/Treasurer.



Convention Award; Doug Lamm, NC East District Convention Chair.



Convention Assistance Award; Al Ludlum, Governor Elect.



OI Foundation Award; Billy Edgerton, OI Foundation Chair.



Two photos from Ray Charles Theater presentation at last District Boaad Meeting. In Rocky Mount



# 2014-2015 Awards

## Presidents Pride

Northern Wake  
South Johnston  
Cape Fear  
Raleigh Dinner  
Golden Circle  
Goldsboro  
Greenville  
Henderson  
Raleigh  
Whiteville  
Wilson Evening  
Chapel Hill  
Elm City

## Bringing Out the Best In Kids Award

Cape Fear  
Goldsboro  
Greenville  
Golden Circle  
Elm City  
South Johnston  
Raleigh  
Chapel Hill

## Lt. Governor Awards



Lt. Governor Jim Hart



Lt. Governor Gary Pender

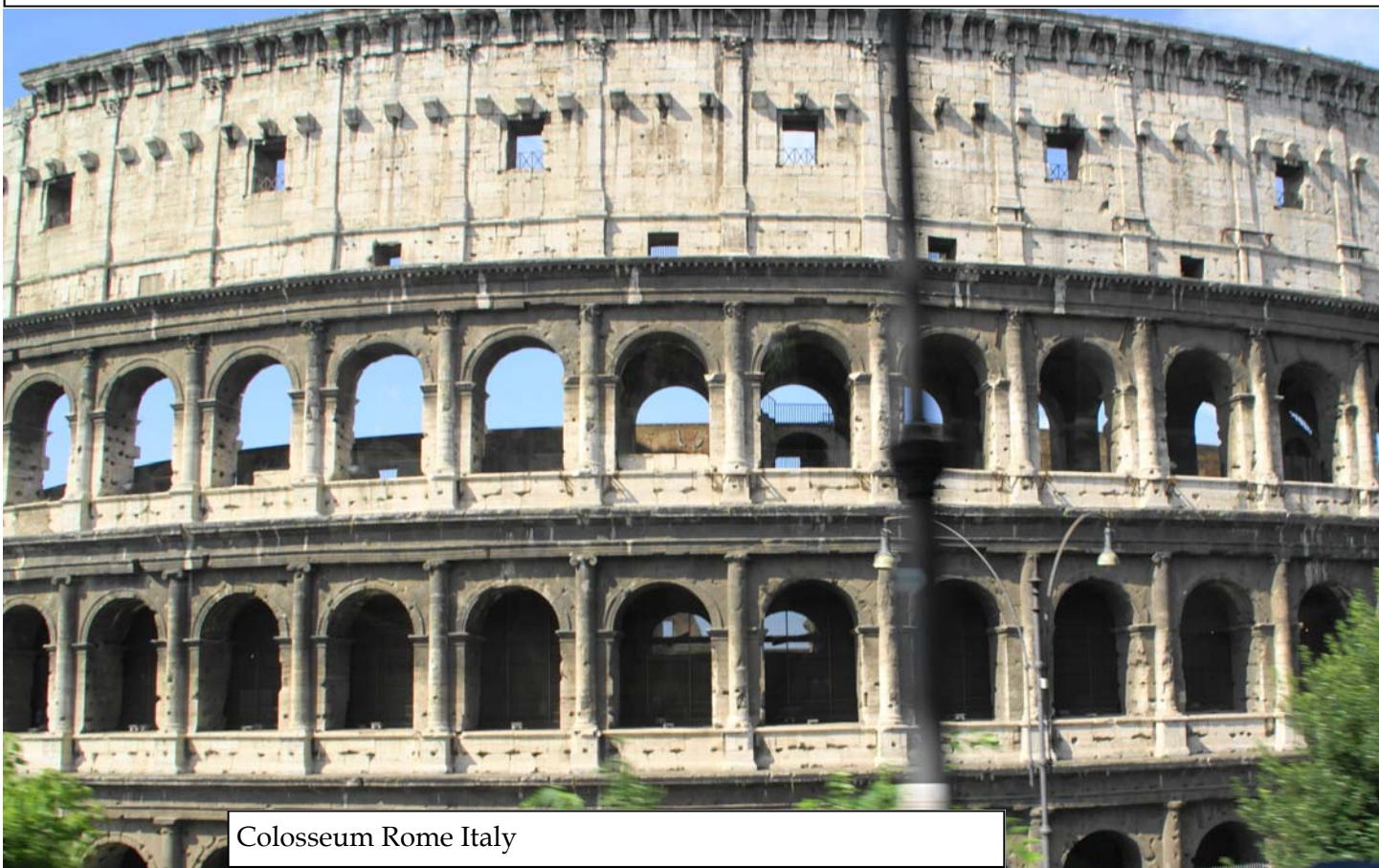


No 1 Lt. Governor 2014-2015  
Zone 6, Dave Bast





Dinner at Gardner's Barbeque, 2nd Quarter Board Meeting, Rocky Mount .



Colosseum Rome Italy



# 2014-2015 Boys & Girls Home Donations

## Clubs Achieving \$25.00 or more per member



No. 1, North Raleigh, Jerry Medlin, \$5,105.00



No. 2, Raleigh, Dayne Brown



No. 3, Wilson Evening, Jimmy Lamm

- Elizabethtown
- Goldsboro
- Henderson
- Laurinburg
- North Raleigh
- Raleigh Dinner
  - Raleigh
- Rocky Mount Evening
- Wilmington Supper
  - Tarboro
  - Whiteville
- Wilson Evening

## Clubs achieving 10% increase (minimum \$100 in previous year.)

- Elizabethtown
  - Elm City
  - Henderson
- North Raleigh
  - Raleigh
- Wilmington Supper
  - Tarboro
  - Washington
  - Whiteville
  - Wilmington
- Wilson Breakfast
- Wilson Evening
  - Winter Park



## 2014-2015 Boys & Girls Home

<u>Club Donations 10/01/15 to 11/28/15</u>		<u>Average Dominations Per Member 10/01/15 to 11/28/15</u>	
Rocky Mount Evening	687.50	Southern Wake	31.63
Goldsboro	673.00	Wilmington	22.80
Golden Circle	526.50	Rocky Mount Evening	20.83
Henderson	512.00	Goldsboro	14.02
Wilmington	342.00	Golden Circle	11.97
Southern Wake	253.00	Henderson	10.89
Chapel Hill	73.00	Raleigh Dinner	5.42
Raleigh Dinner	65.00	Chapel Hill	5.21
Whiteville	62.00	Rocky Mount Breakfast	3.43
Rocky Mount Breakfast	48.00	Whiteville	1.79
Cape Fear	47.00	Winter Park	0.68
Winter Park	46.00	South Johnston	0.57
South Johnston	27.00	Cape Fear	0.53
Greenville	8.00	Greenville	0.36
Roanoke Rapids	8.00	Roanoke Rapids	0.32
Elm City	6.00	Elm City	0.23
Bennett – Wilson	0.00	Bennett - Wilson	0.00
Carteret	0.00	Carteret	0.00
Chowan – Edenton	0.00	Chowan – Edenton	0.00
Duplin	0.00	Duplin	0.00
Elizabethtown	0.00	Elizabethtown	0.00
Garner	0.00	Garner	0.00
Greater Spring Lake	0.00	Greater Spring Lake	0.00
Laurinburg	0.00	Laurinburg	0.00
Northern Wake	0.00	Northern Wake	0.00
Raleigh	0.00	Raleigh	0.00
Roxboro	0.00	Roxboro	0.00
Tarboro	0.00	Tarboro	0.00
Wake Forest	0.00	Wakes Forest	0.00
Washington	0.00	Washington	0.00
Wilmington Supper	0.00	Wilmington Supper	0.00
Wilson Evening	0.00	Wilson Evening	0.00
Wilson Breakfast	0.00	Wilson Breakfast	0.00



In addition to Optimist Clubs normal budgeted donations we at Boys & Girls Home have several projects that we hope Optimists clubs will consider supporting.

Gary Pender  
District B&G Chair



Ray Cockrell, B&G

1. Dining Room Chairs- Optimist Cottage. \$125.00 each

The dining room chairs are in poor condition. We utilize a company that has a special heart for our work and provides durable furniture at a competitive price. Ideally we would need 12 chairs for the cottage.

2. Mattresses – Optimist Cottage \$225.00 Each

The mattresses in the cottage are in need of being replaced. We have a resource that is able to provide the mattresses that meets all health and COA regulations.

3. Comforter Sets – Optimist Cottage \$

Comforter sets are hard to keep around in the cottage. Once a child sleeps on them for a period of time, we allow them to take these items with them when they leave. The guys in the cottage like the appropriate age themed sets (ie: transformers, iron man, etc.). Remember, these are teenagers in the cottage.

4. TV Monitors for the Brill Middle School \$175.00 Each

Each of the classrooms in the Middle School will utilize 32" TV monitors for instructional use. These are more adaptable to various teaching styles and more cost effective. We will need one 32" monitor for each of the seven classrooms.

5 Computers for Brill Middle School \$400.00 Each

The new Brill Middle School will have a computer lab consisting of 25 computers. The appropriate desktop computer has been identified and approved by the school.

Ray Cockrell



# New Club Building

## WELCOME TO THE BLACKBIRD OPTIMIST CLUB OF ROCKY MOUNT

There's a new club in town! We are so excited to have 30 new members of the new Blackbird Optimist club become a part of the NC East District.

The idea for the club was conceived by members of the Rocky Mount Senior High School Class of 1965, whose mascot was the "Mighty Blackbird". Linda Shepherd from the Wilson Golden Circle and Charles



Dunn from the Raleigh Optimist Club were both from this high school class and when they shared their idea of the new club, other class members quickly jumped on board and the club was formed within two weeks!



The Blackbird Optimist Club was chartered on March 11th, they have already elected officers, had their first board meeting and are planning their first

club project! They plan to meet four times a year to conduct service projects to benefit the youth of their community. The club's goal is to give back to the community, improve the quality of life for their hometown's young people and keep the Blackbird name alive. Forever covered in coal dust, the workers in South Rocky Mount's rail yard came to be called "Blackbirds," and the students and athletes of



Rocky Mount Senior High School were the mighty, mighty Blackbirds as well.

If you have ideas for building a new club, please contact me and let's get a plan together to make it happen! Let's take inspiration from the mighty Blackbirds!

Angela Iwaniuk  
New Club Building  
Chair



Angela Iwaniuk (252) 289-5050  
New Club Chair 2015-2016



# PERSONAL GROWTH AND INVOLVEMENT

I'm sure each of you enjoy traveling, learning and experiencing new things as well as being acknowledged, all while having fun and enjoying what you are doing. As we continue to the end of this optimist year I would like to have the opportunity to present to each of you a PASSPORT through the P.G.I. Program. I assure you that you can and will experience its ELEMENTS, Activities, Attendance, Communication, Growth, Knowledge of the Optimist Organization and Self Development. In participating you will be recognized for your involvement, commitment, dedication and completion. This optimist program is great in that it allows optimist members personal growth at their own pace. So you can elect to be a tortoise or you can be a jaguar...THE DECISION IS YOURS to work at the pace you select.

If you would like for me speak with you referencing the P.G.I. Achievement and Recognition please call me. Many of you have already achieved Levels 1 thru 4...set a goal to work on achieving at least one or two more levels prior to the end of the year....

I am available and willing to assist each of you to learn, grow and achieve in OPTIMISM! Just ask.

Call me and let me assist you or your club in making this program work and do what is was and is intend-

ed to do for optimist members...GROW IN OPTIMISM.

This program can only be a success if you the members make it successful. Lets make this program with Optimist International a success in the N.C. East District for 2016.

Remember to send all your information to me as the District Chairman and I will forward to Optimist International.

Every district optimist member that participates and successfully achieves a level in P.G.I. through July 30th will have a chance for a complimentary one night stay at the summer conference in August at the Beach Cove Resort at North Myrtle Beach.

District P.G.I. Chairman

Sandy Cyphers

P.O. Box 3523

Wilmington, NC  
28406

910-367-3295



## 2016 N.C. EAST DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST

Thank You, Thank You to the fifteen (15) clubs in the district that submitted essays.

I had hoped for twenty to twenty-five entries. So my question to those clubs that did not participate... is WHY?

More clubs in the district need to offer the opportunity to the youth in their community. The Essay Competition is a wonderful way to provide young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions and feelings regarding the world in which they live.



The topic this year was "Lead by Example: "Reality or Fiction" and what a great topic this was for the younger generation. Such wonderful opinions, thoughts, feelings and information relayed and ex-



# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

International Convention for 2016 will be in Quebec City, Canada June 30 to Jul; 2. Headquarters Hotel Hilton Quebec.



It is time to start planning of the OI Convention June 30 - July 2 at the Hilton Quebec hotel.. I will have some brochures at the district meeting if you did not get one in Rocky Mount. You can also go online to register or print forms to mail. There is also information on deals for flights, train rides, and transportation from the airport to the hotel. Also there are deals on car rentals. They will also have some information on tours and attractions there as well as in the brochures. I would suggest to go a few days early or stay a few days after the convention to see the sights. If you don't have a passport, you should start working on it now.

In Optimism,

Carey Foster

OI Ambassador Chair

pressed by the participants.

It truly was tough for the judges to finalize their decision on the top three. After reviewing, rereading and rereading over again the decision of the winner was finally agreed and rendered.

First Place: Raleigh

Second Place: Laurinburg,

Third Place: Greenville

Sandy Cyphers, District Essay Chairman



# A&A Club Winners 1st Quarter – Top Ten Clubs



From left: No. 1, Golden circle, Linda Shepherd; No. 2, Goldsboro, Raymond Clark; No. 3, Cape Fear, Austin Pusey; No. 4, South Johnston, Mickey Bast; No. 5, Garner, Jerry Medlin.



From left: No. 6, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; No. 7, Greenville, Eddie Moore; No. 8, Henderson, Thurman Murphy; No. 9, Roanoke Rapids, Russell Leake; No. 10, Washington, LouAnna Hardee.



# A&A Zone Winners 1st Quarter 2014-2015



From left: Zone 1, Cape Fear, Auston Pusey; Zone 2, Whiteville, Don Harritan; Zone 3, Golden Circle, Linda Shepherd; Zone 4, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; Zone 5, Henderson, Thurman Murphy; Zone 6, South Johnston, Mickey Bast.

## Top 3 Lt. Governors



Dan Durham, NCE  
District A&A Chair

From left: No. 1, Lt. Governor Phil Best, Zone 1; No. 2, Lt. Governor LouAnna Hardee, Zone 4 and No. 3, Lt. Governor Brenda Farmer, Zone 3.

# District Membership

## 1st Quarter membership adds:

Zone 1:

Cape Fear

Bennie Bass	1
Walt Moser	2
Ron Watkins	1
Auston Pusey	8

Wilmington Supper

Richard Hartman	5
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Wilmington

Sandy Cyphers	1
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Zone 2:

Elizabethtown

Richard Leinwann	1
Pamela Morris	1
Billy Britt	3
Donald Luther	1
Lauryn Godwin	1

Whiteville

Don Harritan	1
Judy Harritan	1

Zone 3:

Golden Circle

Linda Shepherd	3
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Goldsboro

Louwanna Pender	1
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Zone 4:

Rocky Mount Breakfast

Jim Hart	2
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Waymouth Allen	1
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Greenville

Curtis Hardee	1
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LouAnna Hardee	1
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Rocky Mount Evening

Sam Toler	1
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Zone 5:

Henderson

Thurman Murphy	1
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Thomas Farmer	1
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Zone 6:

Raleigh Dinner

Lonnie Wilson	1
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Garner

Robert Harvin	1
---------------	---

Raleigh

J. B. Baker	1
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Southern Wake

Alan Middleton	1
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David Fritz	1
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Auston Pusey  
District Membership Chair



# Membership Pins:



From Left: Linda Shepherd, 10;; Gary Pender, 10; LouAnna Hardee for Ann Edgerton 10; Thurman Murphy, for Kay Ascue, 10; Jerry Medlin, 25; Judy Harritan 25;. Not pictured, Bennie Bass 50, Ray Britt 10.

Greetings Fellow Optimists. Our membership continues headed in the right direction.

Thanks to all who have contributed to our growth. We have jumped 3 positions in the International rankings since our last quarterly meeting. We are at plus 41 and ranked 3rd. Keep up the great work!!!

We have several clubs that are on track to achieve honor and distinguished club honors.

We have 12 clubs that are plus in members, led by Cape Fear and Elizabethtown with plus 12 and 11 respectively. We also have 10 clubs at 0, which means they only need to bring in one new member to achieve honor club (along with the other very simple criteria).

Please keep track of your membership numbers and

strive to reach these important milestones.

We will be handing out 50 Wal-Mart gift cards for the 2nd quarter this weekend.

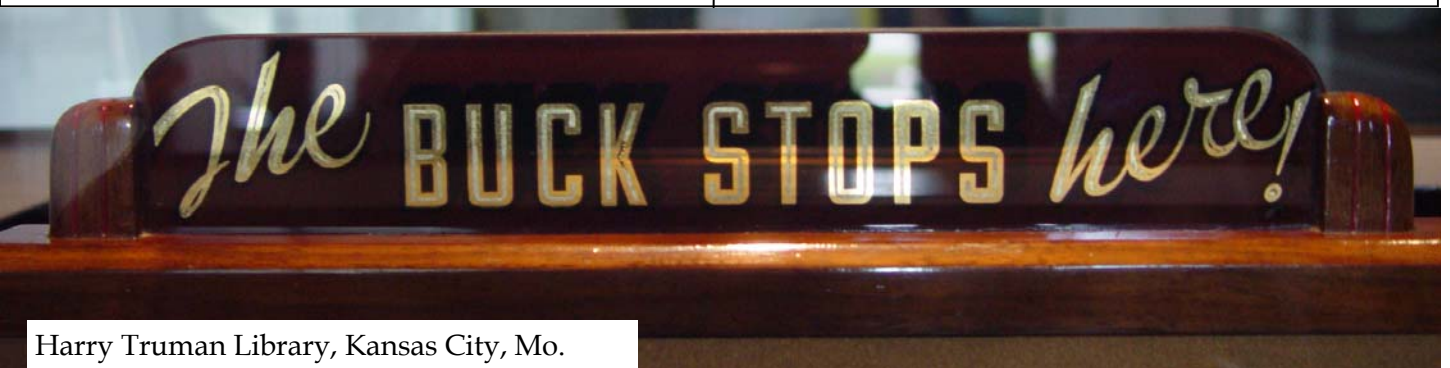
Individually, Cary Foster leads our district in recruiting during the 2nd quarter with 7 new members. Ask Cary how simple recruiting can be. "Just ASK".

Keep up the good work and let's strive to make the NC East District number 1. Keep in mind why we're a part of our great organization and stay focused on the ultimate reason why we do what we do to help the children in our communities.

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

Auston Pusey

Membership Chair



Harry Truman Library, Kansas City, Mo.

# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Clubs receiving a year bar for the average per member donation year 2014-2015.

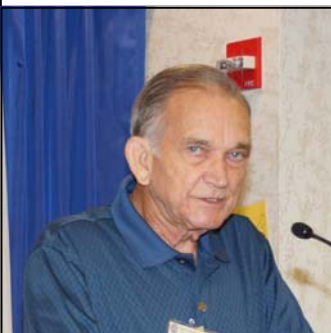
Duplin.....	\$19.35
Rocky Mount Breakfast.....	10.95
Cape Fear .....	18.85
Golden Circle.....	18.72
Goldsboro .....	55.34
Greenville.....	13.08
Henderson .....	12.44
North Raleigh.....	28.50
Raleigh.....	23.15
Roanoke Rapids .....	17.03
Rocky Mount Evening .....	49.53
Whitesville .....	37.18
Southern Wake.....	31.25
Wilson evening .....	117.71
Chapel Hill.....	127.08
Elm City .....	32.37



Foundations Print Award: Billy and Jan Edgerton, Goldsboro.



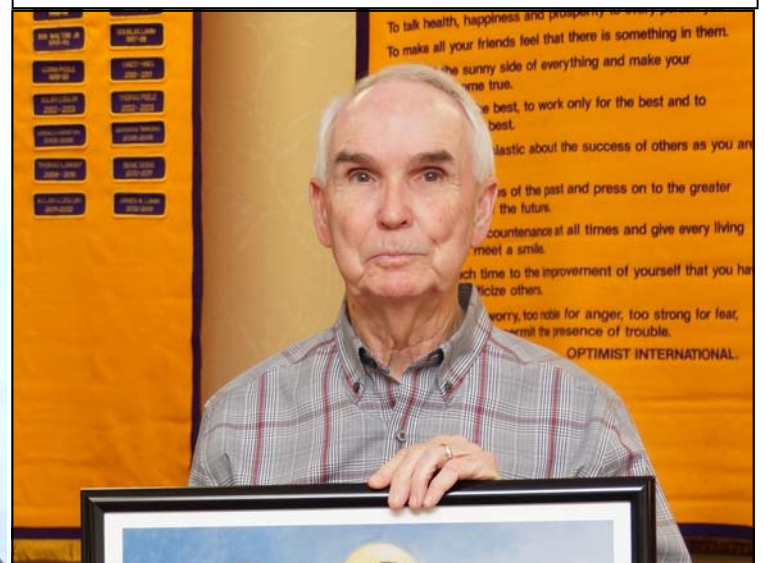
Foundation Print, \$365. patch, Bronze Benefactor; Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler.



Bill Edgerton, OI Foundation



Eiffel Tower, Paris France



Foundation Award Print, \$365. patch, Henderson, Thurman Murphy.

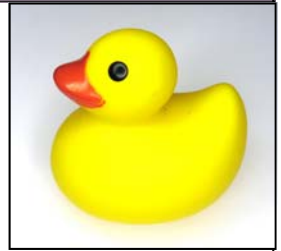


# Childhood Cancer Campaign

## Childhood Cancer Campaign

The “End of Treatment Bell”, donated to the Duke Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic by the Optimist Club of Chapel Hill, was rung for the first time April 5th by **four year old Vanessa**. **The occasion was celebrated by her doctors and nurses, her mother Laura Burnett**, other patients, and members of the Chapel Hill Optimist Club. Nessa has had a

the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department at ECU. To compliment the hospital's nautical décor, the bell will be incorporated into a working lighthouse display that is under construction. The presentation ceremony will be later this year.



The Chapel Hill Club has completed their April “Kisses for Childhood Cancer” fundraising drive at participating area Harris Teeter stores. Despite several rainy days, and lower donations than previous years, they raised about \$1,000.

June is designated Childhood Cancer Awareness month by Optimist International. It is also the time for many communities to hold street fairs and parades. Make plans now to promote your club and support the Childhood Cancer Campaign at these events.

Our August convention will again feature the Yellow Duck Race to raise funds for the CCC program and the leukemia vaccine research at Johns Hopkins. Plan to join the fun as we cheer for the ducks at the hotel's Lazy River on Saturday afternoon. Tickets are available now and will be sold at the convention. The price of a ticket is \$10 a duck or 3 ducks for \$25. Prizes for the winning ducks are \$100, \$50, and \$25 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finish. A special prize will be awarded to the last duck to finish the race. Come enjoy the fun as the ducks race through the hazards of the lazy river.

Thanks to all for your support of the kids and families and the CCC Program.

Trish Verne, Childhood Cancer Campaign Chair



couple years of intensive medical treatments for a neuroblastoma cancer that we all hope is now in remission. After the ceremony, Nessa received her Bead of Courage for the blood draw that she had had earlier that day. Check out her story and more pictures on her blog “Victory for Vanessa”. The club also donated therapy dolls, stuffed toys, Beads of Courage bags, and caps for the patients. The stuffed toys are shared with siblings of the patients receiving treatment at Duke.

The Golden Circle Club is nearing completion of their project to provide an End of Treatment Bell for




2nd Quarter Board Meeting Rocky Mount March 6, 2016



Executive Board Meeting, Rocky Mount.



# OI Foundation Continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Awards October 1, 2015 thru January 31, 2016</p> <p>OIF Print</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Billy &amp; Janis Edgerton Henderson Optimist</p> <p>\$365 Patch</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Henderson Optimist Rocky Mount Evening</p> <p>Bronze Benefactor</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rocky Mount Evening</p> <p>Dime -A-Day Members</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Linda Watson Barbara Hester Betsy Winborne Jean McLamb Celia Wise Angela Iwaniuk Brenda Farmer Linda Shepherd Kathy Sandifer Norma Duell Janice Lamm Joy Finch Kathy O'Rock Billy &amp; Jan Edgerton Thurman Murphy Robert Hassebrock Ed Taylor Henry Edmundson</p>	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">Errol Warren Kelly Tyndall Stephen Coggins Darrell &amp; Debra Fulcher Wayne Sidelinger Sandy Cyphers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Collector pins shipped directly to the following donors;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Billy &amp; Jan Edgerton Errol Warren Darrell &amp; Debra Fulcher Sandy Cyphers</p>	<p>Don't forget the Bar-B-Que rib cook out. The cook out contest will run through the end of September. Two clubs will have a free cook out at a location that is convenient for them. The two winners will be the club that gives the most unrestricted dollars and the one that gives the most unrestricted dollars per member.</p> <p>The Motto of the Optimist International Foundation is "Helping Optimist Help Kids". Most of the dollars we give comes back to our district in the form of scholarships or in materials that we order to do our jobs in our club.</p> <p>Yesterday I received the updated list of dollars donated in our district. I will have the updated standings at our May 7th meeting.</p> <p>If you have questions or want me to talk to your club about the Foundation, please let me know. You can E-mail me at <a href="mailto:bedgerton4@nc.rr.com">bedgerton4@nc.rr.com</a> or call at 929-920-8541.</p> <p>THANKS, BILL EDGERTON</p>
	<p>I really had not expected to get everything loaded this soon, but I was lucky so here are the standings by total per club and total per member by club. We still have five months to go, so look and see where your club stands and work to get your club on top.</p> <p>I want to commend Wilson Golden Circle, Rocky Mount Evening and Whiteville clubs for the number of Dime-A-Day members they have recruited. Each of these clubs have far outpaced the rest of the district in Dime-A-Day members. This could very well be a way for your club to up your standings.</p> <p>Weather you win or not, your donations are really helping the Foundation to "Help Clubs Help Kids". Let's give a lot and enjoy it even more. Thanks for all your help with the Foundation.</p> <p>THANKS, BILL Edgerton</p>	

# District Club Fitness/Club Services Chair

## NC EAST DISTRICT ROCKS !!

Hello Optimists,

At our last district meeting, I shared that the NC East District was #7 in Optimist International and encouraged everyone to help return our district to be #1 again. I am happy to say all of you have MADE a difference and at this writing, we were #2 with one additional club and 41 additional members. YOU ARE AWESOME!



That being said, we must keep pushing. The Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan and North Wyoming District still leads as the #1 District at 1.08% growth. To date, they have added one new club and 113 members. They are most likely attempting to build a new club and hope to add more members but we should not worry about that at this time. After calculating (playing with numbers) some percentages and if NC East adds one more club with 20 more members, the district should move into first place with 1.91 % growth. However, we must keep in mind that other clubs/districts are working hard, also.

EVERYONE should be proud of THEIR EFFORTS. So keep up the good work and keep on recruiting new members and FOOs as WE ALL STRIVE TO GROW OUR DISTRICT TO SERVE MORE YOUTH!

**REMINDER**—Club Officer Elect Reports are due May 20, 2016. Please help our district have 100% submission of the reports by the specified deadline.

**Remember**—“*Serving Youth Today -- Grows Optimist for Tomorrow*” and as Governor Allan Ludlum says — “*Right Here Right Now, Being a Friend of Youth in Our Communities.*”

Yours in Optimism,

*Lou Anna*

**Lou Anna Hardee**

**Chair, Club Fitness Advisor and Finance Committee**

**NC East District, Optimist International**



## Optimist Junior Golf Tournament



ON LINE.

We have plenty of young golfers across our District who would like to play in a major tournament like THE OPTIMIST. Please get the word out about our

PLEASE CONTACT JUNIOR GOLFERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10-18 YEARS OF AGE AND INVITE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR JUNE 20TH QUALIFIER. I HAVE ATTACHED AN ENTRY FORM. REGISTRATION MAY BE COMPLETED

JUNE 20th golfers meeting Optimist International's required conditions.

If your club wants to be a part of the Optimist Junior Golf Program and would like assistance in locating golfers to sponsor please email me at [dhodgesoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:dhodgesoptimist@gmail.com).



David Hodges Junior Golf Chair



# District Oratorical Contest 2016

## And the Winner Is?

The North Carolina East District Optimist will host the Optimist International Foundation Oratorical Contest in Goldsboro, NC

May 7, 2016

Contestants, Clubs and Zones have worked hard to prepare for one of the most exciting events hosted by the NCED Optimist

Contest will be held at the First Baptist Church in Goldsboro, NC.

Contestants will arrive at 9:00 am. Contest will begin at 10:00 am and winners will be announced at the luncheon.

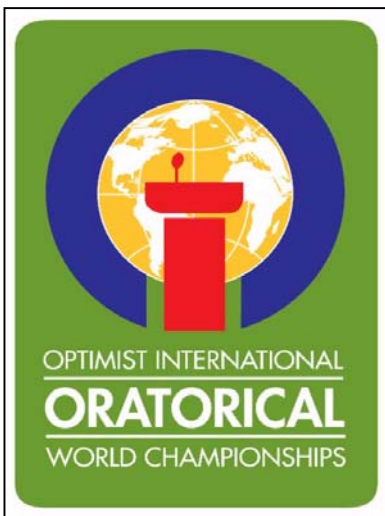
Come be part of

“How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others”

\*\*\*\*\*

### Optimist International Oratorical Contest Makes a Big, Big Announcement

Optimist International and St. Louis University have partnered to host an exciting new enhancement to the Optimist Oratorical Contest and scholarships beginning in 2015-2016.



The new Regional/World Championship Contest will be June 23-24, 2016. Each Optimist District will have the exciting opportunity to send the District Oratorical Winners to St. Louis to compete with the winners of the Districts

in their Region for a \$5,000 scholarship.

The winner of each Region (8) will compete with the winner from St. Louis University's Global Region for a \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 World Championship scholarship. There is the potential for a student to win \$22,500 in scholarships!

For more information contact pro-



grams@optimist.org.

Darrell Fulcher  
District Oratorical Chair



## **COMMUNICATION CONTEST** **for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing**

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL 



The Communications Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing was held April 28th at the Wilson Campus of the School for the Deaf. The Wilson Golden Circle provided pizzas and dessert for everyone at the contest. The winners, pictured above, from left; 1st Place and winner of \$2500 scholarship, William McNeal; 2nd Place Jasmine Jenkins and 3rd Place Danielle Morley. Angela Iwaniuk, member of Golden Circle and District CCDHH Chair, extreme right. All participants were presented with a plaque.

# NCEast District Convention

## Beach Cove Resort

## N. Myrtle Beach, SC

## August 18-21, 2016





*YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE*

**2016 NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT SUMMER CONFERENCE**

*AUGUST 26TH, 27TH, 28TH*

*AT THE BEACH COVE RESORT, NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA*

*PLEASE JOIN PAST N.C. EAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS FOR A DELIGHTFUL DINNER ON THURSDAY EVENING*

*ON FRIDAY ALL DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, SECRETARY-TREASURERS AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS*

*ARE INVITED TO GOVERNOR ELECT JIM HART'S DAY OF TRAINING WITH HIS LEADERSHIP TEAM*

*JOIN THE GROUP FOR LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM*

*ON FRIDAY EVENING JOIN FELLOW OPTIMISTS FOR A WONDERFUL DINNER AT THE BEACH COVE RESORT AND REMAIN FOR THE SPECIAL SHOW AND VARIETY OF EVENING ENTERTAINMENT*

*ON SATURDAY MORNING ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL OCEAN SUNRISE AND JOIN THE SENIOR OPTIMISTS*

*AT THE OLD TIMER'S BREAKFAST WITH GUEST SPEAKER LOIS EARGLE*

*REMAIN FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING*

*LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM*

*CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION TO LEARN WHAT'S IN STORE AND EXPECTED FOR O.I. IN 2016 AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN O.I. RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW*

*THE OPPORTUNITY IS EXTENDED TO YOU TO PURCHASE A DUCK OR TWO FOR THE*

*CHILDHOOD CANCER DUCK RACE AND JOIN US BY THE LAZY RIVER*

*YOU WILL WANT TO THEN TAKE A STROLL ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL ATLANTIC OCEAN AND FEEL THE SAND BENEATH YOUR TOES PRIOR TO DRESSING IN YOUR BEST ATTIRE AND DANCING SHOES TO CELEBRATE AT THE 2016 GOVERNOR'S BANQUET*

*EVENING ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY THE GROUP LATITUDE*

*WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!*



NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT  
 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
 SECOND QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING  
 Country Inn & Suites, Rocky Mount, NC  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
 Saturday, March 5, 2016

The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

Allan Ludlum	Governor
Jim Hart	Governor-Elect
James Lamm	Immediate Past Governor
Don Harritan	District Secretary/Treas.
Judy Harritan	Recording Secretary
Phil Best	Zones 1 & 2 Lt. Governor
Brenda Farmer	Zone 3 Lt. Governor
Lou Anna Hardee	Zone 4 Lt. Governor
Gary Pender	Zone 5 Lt. Governor
Jerry Medlin	Zone 6 Lt. Governor

The following clubs were represented:

- Zone 1: Wilmington Cape Fear, Wilmington
- Zone 2: Whiteville
- Zone 3: Wilson Golden Circle; Goldsboro; Wilson Evening; Elm City; Wilson Bennett
- Zone 4: Greenville; Roanoke Rapids; Rocky Mount Breakfast; Rocky Mount Evening
- Zone 5: Henderson
- Zone 6: Raleigh Dinner; South Johnston; Raleigh

Governor Allan Ludlum called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Ludlum led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Billy Edgerton.

Gov. Ludlum announced that Mark Harris, OI Mid Atlantic Region Vice President, had been scheduled to attend but cancelled due to a late scheduling conflict. He will visit our district at a later time. Governor Ludlum welcomed everyone and recognized 6 first-time attendees.

District Secretary/Treasurer Don Harritan presented the minutes of the 2015-2016 1st Quarter. Motion was made by Gary Pender (Goldsboro Club) with a second by Jim Hart (Rocky Mount Breakfast Club) to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

Harritan presented the 1st Quarter Financial Report. One adjustment had been made in Lt. Governors' expenses (Item 210) as directed by the Executive Committee to reflect accurate mileage for club visits. Motion was made by Jerry Medlin (South Johnston Club) NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT

- New Club Building: Chairman Angela Iwaniuk reported there are 3 or 4 possibilities identified for new clubs. The first new club is proposed to



be chartered on March 11 and will be the Black-bird Optimist Club. Iwaniuk recognized Linda Shepherd (Elm City Club) who described the potential non-traditional new club. This club has 19 prospective members at this time.

- OI Ambassador: Carey Foster distributed information on the 2016 OI Convention in Quebec, Canada. He encouraged members to attend.
- Bulletin Editor: Wayne Sidelinger urged clubs to send more pictures for the Bulletin.
- Junior Golf: David Hodges reported that a qualifier tournament was held on September 20, 2015. The next tournament with 73 golfers is scheduled for March 12-13 in Chapel Hill. On May 2, tournaments are planned for Four Oaks and Wilson. The NC East District qualifier is scheduled for June 20 in Rocky Mount at the Belmont Lake Golf Club and Northgreen Country Club for all age divisions. Additional tournaments are planned for July or August or September. Hodges said he hopes to have 25 qualifying golfers for the OIJGC tournament.
- Governor-Elect Jim Hart thanked Henry Edmondson for organizing the Friday night entertainment program (*Ray Charles Live*) at the NC Wesleyan College Dunn Center and he thanked everyone who attended. Forty Nine Optimists and guests attended the event.
- Membership: Auston Pusey praised Elizabethtown's regrowth efforts under the leadership of President Ray Britt. He presented awards (\$10 Walmart cards) to District members who sponsored new members in the first quarter. Pusey also recognized and presented pins to members who have reached the 25, 20, and 10 member recruitment plateau. Pusey reminded everyone of the membership incentives for this club year and concluded with "Membership is an honor and privilege. Share it."
- Achievement and Awards: Dan Durham presented the following 1st Quarter Awards

#### Top 10 Clubs in the District

10. Washington
9. Roanoke Rapids
8. Henderson
7. Greenville
6. Rocky Mount Evening
5. Garner
4. South Johnson
3. Wilmington Cape Fear
2. Goldsboro
1. Wilson Golden Circle

#### Number 1 Club in Zones

- Zone 1: Wilmington Cape Fear
- Zone 2: Whiteville
- Zone 3: Wilson Golden Circle
- Zone 4: Rocky Mount Evening
- Zone 5: Henderson
- Zone 6: South Johnston

#### Top 3 Lt. Governors

3. Brenda Farmer (Zone 3)
2. Lou Anna Harder (Zone 4)
1. Phil Best (Zone 1)

- Boys & Girls Home of North Carolina: Report was made by Gary Pender (Chairman) and Ray Cockrell (BGHNC Representative). Pender reported that things were busy and going well at the home. He discussed some of the needs for the Optimist Cottage. Pender reported that he had donated several guitars for the boys' use but

still needed a bass guitar and amplifier. He asked to be contacted if anyone could help with such a donation. Cockrell recognized clubs that had a 10% increase or donated \$25 per member in the 2014-2015 club year. The top 3 clubs were:

3rd place: \$2,300      Wilson Evening

2nd place: \$2,930      Raleigh

1st place: \$5,105      North Raleigh

Cockrell also presented certificates to clubs that made contributions in the 2014-15 club year.

Cockrell updated the group on Flemington Academy, the Transitional Living Program, and the Culinary Arts Program. Pender and Cockrell accepted donations from clubs. Cockrell invited everyone to attend the Southern Farm Days event on the BGHNC campus on March 19-20.

- Essay Contest: Gov. Ludlum reported for Chairman Sandy Cyphers that she had received 11 essay entries.
- JOOI Clubs: Reporting for Chairman Sandy Cyphers, Gov. Ludlum advised that a new club was being formed by Elizabethtown at East Bladen High School.
- New Program from OI: Gov. Ludlum reported a new program for veterans, public service employees, teachers, etc. is being developed. Details will be announced at a later date.
- Oratorical Contest: Darrell Fulcher announced that the District contest will be at the 3rd quarter District meeting in Goldsboro on May 7. Fulcher discussed additional details including:
  1. Contact District Secretary/Treasurer Don Harritan for meal tickets for participants and family. This should be done by the sponsoring club no later than the 3rd quarter registration deadline.
  2. April 22 is deadline for Zones to advise Fulcher of the two winners who will par-

ticipate.

3. June 23 Regional Oratorical Contest
4. June 24 World Championship

- Leadership Development: Darrell Fulcher conducted a training session on "Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer".
- OI Foundation: Bill Edgerton presented the traditional banner patches and framed prints to Henderson, Rocky Mount Evening, Bill and Jan Edgerton, and Wilson Golden Circle for their level of donations. He then accepted club donations and individual donations (Dime-A-Day and President's Club). Edgerton reminded everyone of the cookout contest in support of the Foundation. The contest will have two winners--one for the club that donates the most dollars per member and one for the club that donates the most dollars. He reminded those present of the Foundation motto: "Helping Optimist Help Kids"
- Club Fitness: Lou Anna Hardee discussed the importance of club programs. The NC East District is #7 in OI. The District is currently +10 in membership and the Mid Atlantic Region is currently #1 in membership. Hardee emphasized the importance of increasing membership and building new clubs.
- District Convention: Gov. Ludlum reported for Chairman Sandy Cyphers. The dates have been changed to August 25-28 and will be held at the Beach Cove Resort again this year. NC West will hold its Convention nearby at the same so there is the possibility of a joint golf outing this year as we had several years ago.
- Governor-Elect Comments: Jim Hart reported that he is assembling his team for the 2016-2017 club year and thanked everyone for the support and for saying yes.
- Past Governors: Gov. Ludlum recognized all Past Governors in attendance.



The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 with the Optimist Creed. The annual Awards Luncheon followed in which Past Governor James Lamm and his team presented awards to Lt. Governors, chairpersons, and top clubs and members for their accomplishments in the 2014-15 year.

Don Harritan, District Secretary/Treasurer

Judy Harritan, Recording Secretary



The Elm City Optimist Club hosted the Elm City Middle School Vikings JOOI Club (Junior Optimist Club) for a Charter club ceremony and reception last night at the Elm City United Methodist Church. We are the first JOOI club in the history of Wilson County. Pictured left to right are club members McKalyn Williams, Mary Thomas Watkins, Jake Jeffery ( JOOI club secretary), Nathan Spencer, Abigail Varnell ( JOOI club vice president ) Riley Patterson ( JOOI club president), Lee Grissom ( JOOI club sponsor), Ms. Jacci Queen ( EC Optimist Club president), Mrs. Linda Jordan Shepherd (Past EC Optimist Club President and current JOOI club representative). We are very proud of our civic minded students who are committed to service to others.



# 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.

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

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

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