

North Carolina East Optimist News

Fellow Optimists,

It's time to prepare for our District Convention which is scheduled to be held August 25-28 in North Myrtle Beach, SC! We will be at the beautiful Beach Cove Resort and I believe each of you will agree with me this location has a lot to offer us and will be worth the trip! So, make plans to have fun and bring your family for a great weekend! This will be a fun filled weekend and a time for socializing with old friends, making new ones, enjoying great food and entertainment, receiving great training and having lots of fun things to do. We have several special guests joining us this weekend! First, join me in welcoming our International Representative New Club Building Chair, Deanna Morrow. Deanna will be working with our training classes and will be available for our questions. We also will have International President 2015-16 Dave Bruns. Dave will be with us Saturday night at our Governors Ball. Please

join me in welcoming them to the Best District! Also joining us for the first time will be Officers and Members from our NEW Blackbird Optimist Club & Mahler Thorp Optimist International Sport Club! These clubs have already been busy with service projects and adding new members! I would like to give a special thank-you to the Raleigh Optimist, Golden Circle Optimist, Rocky Mt Evening and the Rocky Mt Breakfast clubs for sponsoring these new clubs and the support they have for these new clubs.



We will start the weekend with our traditional Golf Tournament to benefit the Boys and Girls Home in Lake Waccamaw. Following the tournament, all Optimists are invited to attend an evening

meal honoring our Past Governors. On Friday morning, the Executive Committee will meet and in the afternoon, training for our incoming club officers will begin. Friday evening will feature a Rock & Roll theme, and Good Ole Southern Fried Chicken dinner. Wear your best Rock & Roll 50's outfit. Monetary prizes to "Best 50's Dress Couple, Best Female and Best Male. Everyone will enjoy an evening of entertainment for all ages. Saturday morning starts out with our "Old Timers Breakfast"! This is for all Optimists -new, convention first timers, and of course - our old timers! This will be followed by the District Board of Directors meeting and after lunch one hour workshops followed by Free Time for sunning on the beach or by the pool. At 4:00 pm Saturday we will have our annual Duck Race. We will end the day with the Governors Banquet and Ball.

We will start the evening at 6 pm with our Governors reception and receiving line. At the banquet, our new District officers for the 2016-2017 Optimist year will be formally installed. For the evening's entertainment, you will enjoy dancing as well as listening to the music. Latitude will provide the music. I think you will really enjoy their style and music. Tom and Michelle Becker have appeared with Motown, Rock and Country music legends including Ray Charles, Willie Nelson, Brenda Lee, The Drifters, The Coasters, The Platters, Jerry Lee Lewis, Jerry Jeff Walker and The New Christy Minstrels. With a 500+ song list, and the uncanny ability to play the right song at just the right time, each performance is one-of-a-kind. Then on Sunday morning we will close the convention with our parting breakfast at the hotel!

The training at this convention is essential for your President-elects and Secretary/Treasurer elects. This is the best training and it will also give your officers a chance to meet their Lt. Governors and the new district chair people for the upcoming year. Governor Elect Jim Hart as put together a great team and they need to meet your club officers. This is a time to learn and get to know those you will be working with during the 2016-2017 year. I have had the great pleasure to attend two very important events in our dis-

trict recently that I would like to share with you. Our Garner Optimist Club has celebrated 50 Years of Service this year and the Cape Fear Optimist Club also will be celebrating in September! Please join me in congratulating them on their many years of contributing to their communities and serving their youth! Also, we have been in Second Place on the Leaderboard with 60 plus members! Both of these milestones are great for our district! As you see members of the Garner and Cape Fear Optimist Clubs, please congratulate them!

So many times during this year, we have been bombarded with uncertainty about the economy and I am sure this uncertainty will continue. Perhaps this explains some of the decline in member retention and new membership. When I think of how this has affected our communities and clubs, it makes it very clear that no one will be untouched by the decline. With this in mind, we must recognize the effect on the children as well. Now more than ever, we need to keep our children at the top of the list of people that will need our services. They don't always have a voice and it is up to us to "watch over them". We can't stand idly by and say no to their needs. If you think last year brought a lot of request at the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays - wait till this year. As it stands, we have 60 MORE Optimists helping serving the needs of so many more children. Do you know a child that does not have food on the weekends - many are receiving the benefits of the "back pack buddies" program! Could your club members donate food for this program? Do you know a child that cannot play sports because they don't have money for registration and uniform? Can your club help sponsor this child? Do you know a child that will not have "Christmas"? Can your club help? The needs for children are unlimited! You don't have to look far to see the needs! We need to make a decision to serve our children as best we can! This is what we as Optimist do best! We are the "Friend of Youth".

As of this writing, our District has lost 123 members! The effect this has on the children in these communities is profound! We have added 188 new

members! Thank you to each Optimist that has sponsored a new member! Just think if we could have kept those 123 members, we would be plus 311 members. I know we must drop members, but I ask each and every one of you to go out and add members! There are many opportunities to recruit new members! Wouldn't now be a good time to sponsor a new member! As we come to the end of our Optimist year, please remember to complete your President's Pride Report (on-line) by September 30th , complete at least three service projects this year also Recognize a Club member or local community individual, grow club by net plus 1 and Be current on District and OI dues.

This year has been a wonderful year of memories for

me. I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as your Governor!

Yours in Optimism,

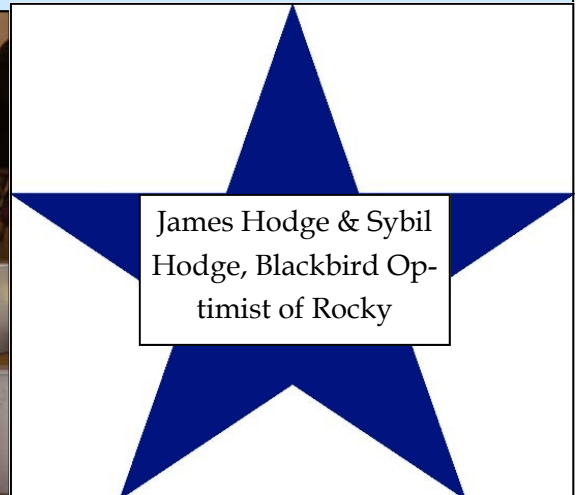
Serving Youth Today – Who Am I? I Am An OptimistRight Here - Right Now, Being a Friend of Youth in Our Communities!

Allan Ludlum

Governor 2015-2016

North Carolina East District of
Optimist International

First Timers at 3rd Quarter Board Meeting



First Timers at 3rd Quarter Board Meeting



District Oratorical Contest 2016



Participants from left: Kylee Coppock, Goldsboro; Hilda Kolawole, Wake Forest; Harriet Bowles, Greenville; George Karadhov, Cape Fear; Margaret High, Whiteville.



Participants from left: Natalie Riggs, Roanoke Rapids; Sarah Golden, Carteret Country; Jalen Bookhart, Raleigh; Zackary Bonds, Cape Fear; Samantha Hines, Henderson.

Oratorical Contest Winners



From Left: 1st Place Winner, Sarah Golden, Carteret Country; 2nd Place Winner, Zachary Bonds, Cape Fear; 3rd Place Winner, Hilda Kolawole, Wake Forest.



The North Carolina East District Optimist 2015/2016 Oratorical Contest Winner Sarah Golden (sponsored by the Carteret Optimist Club) competed in the Regional/World Championship Contest on June 23, 2016 at the

*Webb Memorial Public Library
812 Evans Street
Morehead City, NC*

Sarah's Family, Governor Al Ludlum and Past First Lady Debra Fulcher were in attendance. The contest was conducted through the Fuze network and as expected, Sarah presentation was outstanding.

Other competing districts within our region were; North Carolina West, Capital of Virginia, Kentucky/West Virginia, Maryland/Southern Delaware

We did not place in the Regional Contest but we want to thank everyone that participated and next year will be even greater.

District Oratorical Contest

2015/2016 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

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
programs@optimist.org.

World Champion Crowned

The Regional winners competed in the 2016 Optimist International Oratorical World Championships finals and the winners have been announced.

World Champion - Cameron Tyler (East Missouri District in the Middle America Region)

Second Place - Grant Cadwell (Southern Wisconsin District in the Great Plains Region)

Third Place - Justice Hill (South Carolina District in the Southeast Region)

Congratulations to all the participants!

Message from Dana Thomas

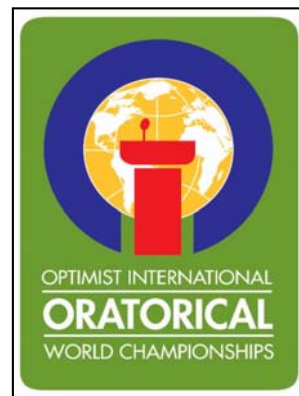
Sr. Director of Programs & Administrative Support

THANK YOU!!!! The 1st Annual Optimist International Oratorical World Championships was a HUGE success!!! And it was mostly in part due to your efforts! I hope you have had a chance to see the Oratorical page on the Optimist website.

Please send me your thoughts. I want to know what you liked and perhaps did not like or your suggestions to share with the International Activities Committee for next year's contest July 15-16, 2017.

It is not too early to start planning for next year. If you are not going to be the Oratorical Chair for your District next year, PLEASE start communicating with the 2016-2017 Chair now to get them up to speed. I will also start communicating with them as soon as I get back from the International Convention in Québec City. It is also important to start encouraging your next year's team to consider funding to send your District winner to St. Louis next year.

Again, THANK YOU for all you have done to help make



this a premier event for our Optimist Clubs, Districts, Optimist International and the World. As always, let me know what I can do to help you promote the program and provide any resources that I can.

All the best,

Dana L. Thomas

Sr. Director of Programs & Administrative Support
Optimist International

The next Optimist International Oratorical World Championships will be held June 15-16, 2017, with the topic:

“What the World Gains from Optimism.”

District Chairs will set the deadline date for Optimist Clubs to complete their contests. The District deadline to submit the District winner information to Optimist International is May 15, 2017.

Thank you for supporting and promotion of this project

Best Regards

Darrell Fulcher



Golden Circle visited the VA Hospital in Durham, NC and delivered over 180 cards to be given to veterans who are our "American Heroes".



From left: Celia Wise, Joy Belle Finch, Angela Iwaniuk, Va Director, Linda Shepherd and Norma Duell

2016 N.C. EAST DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST

Lead by Example:: Reality or Fiction

By Ashley Lamb

Sponsored by Raleigh Optimist



“A leader knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” John Maxwell, motivational speaker and author of seventy books, wrote this in *Right to Lead*. Many leaders enjoy just directing others, whereas some serve as examples to others. Leading by example is a real motivator, demonstrating one is willing to do what one requires of others; this is not some fiction of idealistic thinking. Rather than say, “Go do this,” leaders say “Lets do this.” Regrettably, many fail to lead by example, ordering others to act one way while holding themselves to a different standard. This leads to confusion, lost motivation, and failure to follow directions. Acting as an example is crucial to leading others well, as famous 20th century leaders Nelson Mandela, Theodore Roosevelt and Mother Teresa modeled in their lives.

Nelson Mandela, who led protests and resistance efforts against oppressive white minority rule in South Africa, was imprisoned for 27 years, in an 8’ by 8’ cell. Breaking rocks daily with a tiny hammer in the hot sun. He struck his guards as dignified, respectful, and principled. He secretly wrote in prison an autobiography about life in his segregated country, which became a spark for world opinion. When offered restricted freedom after 22 years, Mandela chose to remain in prison five more years. His prison experience made him the face of the anti-apartheid movement. After his release, Mandela worked to end discrimination in South Africa. In 1994 , he became the country’s first black president and formed a diverse government. He spent the next five years working for reconciliation between races and advocating human rights abroad. He formed truth commissions, trading pardons for honesty about past racial crimes, and supported the all-white national rugby team to a 1995 world championship, though it had long symbolized elitist racism. Mandela risked life and freedom and showed mercy and forgiveness toward his tormentors, and then he helped lead others to do the same. Leading by example, he modeled his vision for a peaceful future in South Africa.

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, is remembered for his charisma and effective leadership. He overcame the adversity of a sickly childhood with asthma, believing anyone could achieve greatness if pursued with determination. He led his life with the intent to encourage others to follow, never asking people to do anything he was not willing to do himself. One of his most impressive examples of leadership occurred during the Spanish American War. Leading his troops into battle, he placed himself in the front line, closest to the danger. After he was elected President, he led by example destroying the gas monopoly of Standard Oil, championing construction of the Panama Canal, and founding the national park system, all despite serious resistance and controversy. He put others’ lives before his own, remained open to learn from others, and led boldly with vision. His effectiveness and personal example of rugged individualism helped leave legacies that last to this day.

Mother Teresa, my favorite leader, was a sweet, caring woman. At the age of 36, she felt God was calling her to care for the poor in India. After learning a few basic medical skills, she set out in 1948 to care for the neediest people in Calcutta. Unfortunately, she had very little experience, and she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food. Her selfless heart persuaded about 12 other women to lend a hand, eventually forming the Missionaries of Charity group. She was content in poverty and was never above doing the most menial work, including cleaning toilets and drains. She cared for the sick, taught the uneducated, nurtured the dying, and founded orphanages, soup kitchens, schools, counseling centers, and medical clinics over five decades. Mother Teresa won the Nobel Prize for Peace and the Medal of Freedom, yet despite global influence of her work, she was remarkable for personally attending to the needs one person at a time and modeling that human focus for others. Like a good leader she persevered, even when no one would help her, and led others to serve by her example.

Nelson Mandela, Theodore Roosevelt and Mother Teresa are my role models, they led with bravery, thoughtfulness, passion, confidence and sacrifice. By presenting these qualities as examples for others, they demonstrated that anyone can shine his or her light and make a difference if wholeheartedly leading by example. It is fiction to believe one can motivate others for very long talking the talk but not walking the walk. One must inspire others through the reality of one's example. Mandela wrote, "A leader...plants seeds, and then watches, cultivates, and harvests... {A} leader must take responsibility for what he cultivates," and as for whether his examples took root, "I am fundamentally an optimist."



Ashley Lamb, winner of the District Essay Contest and recipient of \$2500 Scholarship, presented her award at 3rd Quarter Board meeting by District Essay Chair, Sandy Cyphers.

Not pictured, 2nd and 3rd place Essay Contest winners: 2nd place winner ,Coleman Anderson, Greenville Optimist; 3rd Place Winner, Seth Hatchell, Laurinburg Optimist.



Optimist Make a Difference!!

This summer has been filled with beach trips, surf camp, deep-sea fishing and movies – all intertwined with our summer World of Work program and campus-specific programming. The boys have had a great summer!

Thank you Optimist! The Past Governor’s Association along with several individual Optimist Clubs across the East and West made contributions to spruce up the cottage. New mattresses were purchased for each bed; new comforters, sheets and pillows were bought; much needed new dining room chairs were ordered; and there was enough remaining to purchase two cottage computers and shelving in the cottage. It is amazing to watch Optimists come together to make life better for the boys in your cottage.



Gary Pender,
District B&G Chair

Save the Date! October 29 is reserved for a Cookout with the Kids. In the place of the traditional Optimist Work Day, we are planning a day of fun and celebration with the boys in the cottage. Come join us on the B&GH campus for a celebration of the Optimist Cottage. There will be a cookout, entertainment and an open house in the cottage. Make plans to join us!

Be sure to stop by my display at the Convention to see pictures of the boys in action, the new purchases for the cottage and an updated list of needs in the cottage.

Because of you and Optimists across the state, we are able to offer these opportunities and experiences for the boys in your cottage. Thank you for *making a difference* in their lives!



Ray Cockrell, B&G Home

Ray



Scene on road going north out of Quebec city. Three hours further up the road is boat for Whale watching.

New Club Building



Linda Shepherd receiving Builder of Excellence award at 3rd quarter Board meeting for organizing the Blackbird Optimist Club. Al Ludlum, Governor, presenting.

It's Not Too Late – to Build a New Club

Even though we are in the final few weeks of this Optimist year, it isn't too late to build a new club! Let's all keep seeking opportunities to form a new club, and let's keep encouraging others to do the same.

I am so proud of our District for already building two new clubs this year.

- The Blackbird Optimist Club of Rocky Mount
- The Mahler Thorp Optimist Sports Club of Rocky Mount



Both of these new clubs formed quickly and they both are non-traditional clubs, so remember that a new club can look different than it did in the past and by “thinking outside the box” we may be able to bring more younger members into our wonderful organization!

Please give me a call if I can help you become a Builder of Excellence!



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



PERSONAL GROWTH AND INVOLVEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS to the following optimist members that completed P.G.I. Levels from October 1, 2015 thru August 2016.

Billy Edgerton LEVEL 10 Goldsboro

Linda Shepherd LEVEL 10 Golden Circle

Jim Hart LEVEL 6 Rocky Mount Breakfast

Brenda Farmer LEVEL 2 Golden Circle

Angela Iwaniuk LEVEL 2 Golden Circle

Diane Johnson LEVEL 2 Golden Circle

Linda Watson LEVEL 2 Golden Circle

Betsy Winborne LEVEL 2 Golden Circle

Members that completed levels prior to October 1, 2015 and received their pin backing in November 2015 were:

Lou Anna Hardee LEVEL 10 Greenville

Charles Ross LEVEL 6 Greenville

Ellen Ross LEVEL 3 Greenville

Renee Little LEVEL 1 Roanoke Rapids

Tommy Little LEVEL 1 Roanoke Rapids

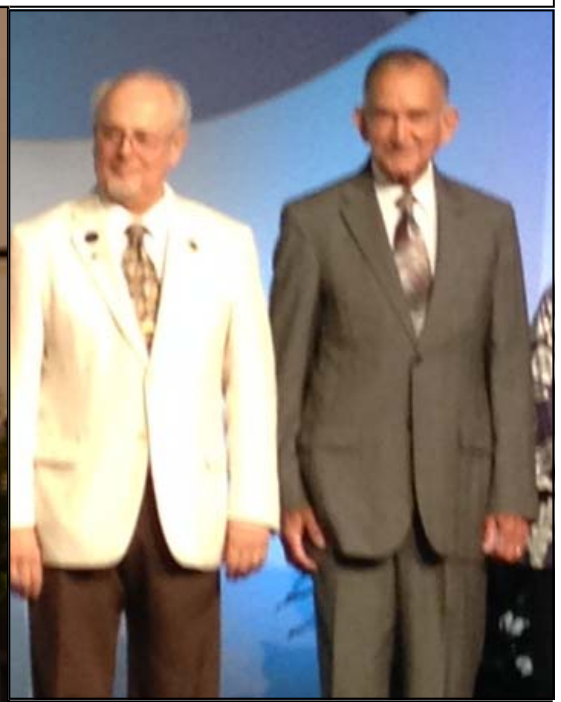
Grow with optimism through involvement in the P.G.I. Program. Have fun learning about this organization while continuing to grow personally. Ask for your Personal Passport and GET STARTED TODAY? It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 and you will be recognized for your efforts.

Sandy Cyphers

District P.G.I. Chair



Lou Anna Hardee, left having just received Personal Growth and Involvement award of Level X from PGI District Chair, Sandy Cyphers at 3rd Quarter NC East meeting in Goldsboro May 7th.



Bill Edgerton, right, being recognized on stage at OI Convention in Quebec for achieving Level X, PGI.

JOI

Jr. Optimist International

J.O.O.I. as of October 1, 2016 will have a
New Name JOI

The same wonderful youth organization just with a small change in name. Still going strong with lots of new clubs and new young members.

There are soooooooooo many benefits for both adult clubs and J.O.I. members. J.O.I. members are a great resource for your club members to work with them on your club's projects as well as having them to participate as scholarship participants in the Oratorical and Essay Contests.

I would be delighted to visit your club and share information of how to make a J.O.I. a reality in your zone or community. All you need to do is ask for me to visit with your club. Together we can make it happen for many young people. Students are required and need volunteer hours for graduation so this would be a BIG advantage to them to have the opportunity of experience volunteerism at its "BEST".

Sandy Cyphers 910-367-3295

2015-2016, 2016-2017 District J.O.I. Chair

2015-2016, 2016-2017 International J.O.I. Chair



Presidents Banquet Quebec Convention: Front, Jan and Bill Edgerton, back, Carol Collier, Jim Hart and Sandy Cyphers.



Sandy Cyphers, Optimist International JOOI Chair, addressing convention delegates in Quebec.

A&A Club Winners 2nd Quarter – Top Ten Clubs 2015-16



From left: 1st, Golden Circle, Linda Shepherd; 2nd Greenville, Curtis Hardee; 3rd, Whiteville, Don Harritan; 4th, Goldsboro, Jewel Wilson; 5th, Raleigh, David Fritz.



From Left: 10th, South Johnson, not pictured; 9th, Roanoke Rapids, Russell Leake; 8th, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; 7th, Garner, Not Pictured; 6th Cape Fear, Kathy Brennan.

Dan Durham, NCE
District A&A Chair

A&A Zone Winners 2nd Quarter 2015-2016



From left: Zone 1, Cape Fear, Kathy Brennan; Zone 2, Whiteville, Don Harritan; Zone 3, Golden Circle, Brenda Farmer; Zone 4, Greenville, Curtis Hardee; Zone 5, Northern Wake, Gary Pender; Zone 6, Raleigh, David Fritz.

Top 3 Lt. Governors 2015-2016

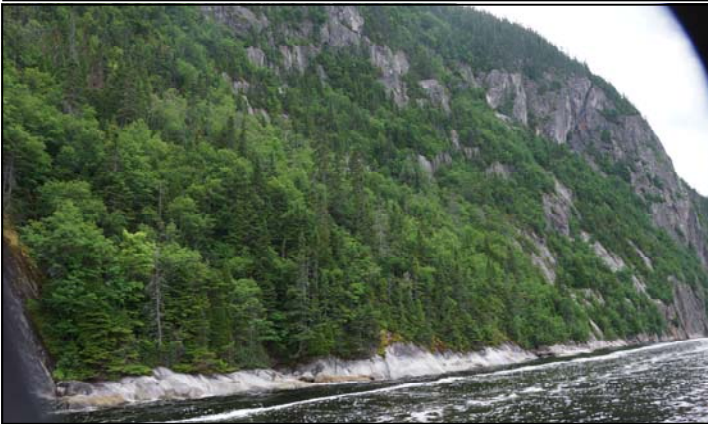


From Left: 1st, Zone 6 Lt. Gov. Jerry Medlin, (Al Ludlum) ; 2nd, Zone 4 Lt. Gov. Lou Anna Hardee; 3rd, Zone 3 Lt. Gov. Brenda Farmer.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 30 to July 2, 2016, Quebec Canada.

Thirteen members of NC East District, Russell & Joyce Leake, Carey & Ellen Foster, Betty Moseley, Carol Collier, Linda Shepherd, Sandy Cyphers, Wayne Sidelinger, Jim & Linda Hart, Bill & Jan Edgerton attended the OI Convention in Quebec. Jim Hart, Sandy Cyphers, Linda Shepherd, Bill Edgerton all had one or more appearances for awards or recognition on the stage. In addition to Optimist meeting events, touring and whale watching trips were available.



Shore of St. Lawrence River.



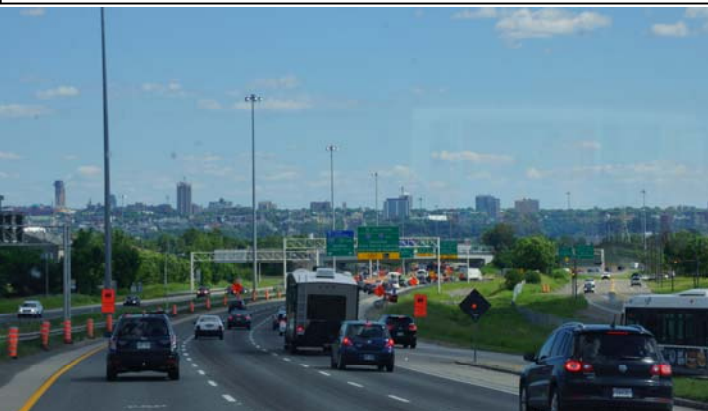
Whales reluctant to pose.



Seals tend to gather where whales are.



Rain gear necessary for waves over spray and rain.



Skyline of Quebec in distance.



Whale bigger than boat.

Photos from OI Convention in Québec



Sandy Cyphers, OI JOOI Chair, had numerous events on stage. Here she is presenting an award to Logan Clemente, JOOI President, with OI President Dave Bruns sharing.



Linda Shepherd on stage to receive Builder of Excellence award and OI Club grant for their Childhood Cancer Ring the Bell program.



Luncheon: Jan Edgerton, unknown woman, Linda Shepherd, Jim Hart, Carol Collier & Sandy Cyphers.



In Quebec each item on menu is served individually. Unusual unlike US waiters.



NC East Friday night Dinner: Betty Moseley, Ellen Foster, Carey Foster, Joyce & Russell Leake, Carol Collier & Linda Shepherd.

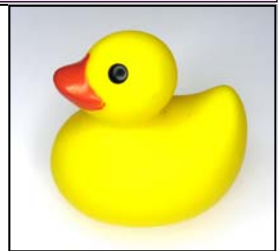


NC East Friday Night: Bill Edgerton, Jan Edgerton, Sandy Cyphers & Jim Hart. Not in Photo, Linda Hart & Wayne Sidelinger,



Jim Hart, on Stage for presentation of NC East District Governor Elect along with Linda Hart.

Childhood Cancer Campaign



Congratulations to the Wilson Golden Circle Club for the completion of their "End of Treatment Bells" project. The first of the two bells was installed in a ceremony at the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital in Greenville, NC in July. To fit the nautical theme of the hospital, it is housed in a lighthouse that is located behind the front desk of the Pediatric Oncology Department. At the presentation ceremony five patients and their families rang the bell for the staff and visitors. These children who are ages one year old to teenagers have completed their treatments for different forms of childhood cancer. Three local TV stations were there to record the ceremony and broadcast it on the evening news. The second light house bell was installed in the inpatient section of the hospital in August. Many thanks to the club and to Rickie Wester for his help designing the lighthouses to display the bells. To highlight the bell, each lighthouse is lit by a light fixture donated by a local lighting store. To help fund the project, the club applied

for and received a \$500 grant from the OI Childhood Cancer Campaign.

The Chapel Hill and Northern Wake Clubs have been cooking meals at the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill. Since the expansion of the facility more help is needed staffing the two kitchens serving those in residence. Northern Wake is also planning another therapy doll project with the local school children in support of the Childhood Cancer Campaign and the patients at Duke and UNC Hospitals.

The rain held off during the visit of the Chapel Hill Optimist Club and the Chapel Hill Woodturners Club who joined the kids and staff at Camp Kaleidoscope for an afternoon of fun. Each child was given a couple finger-tops to decorate and play with while the wood turners demonstrated their skills making more tops. The kids were treated to a watermelon party and tested their skills at the seed spitting distance and accuracy targets. Prizes for all participants were passed out after dinner. These children have all been patients at Duke Hospital for life threatening illnesses. The camp has three different age groups that attend for a week each during July. This is a time to be a kid again and not be limited by their illnesses. The staff members are all Duke medical personnel who can take care of the kids if they have a health issue. Being homesick is not a problem. They participate in all the camp activities along with the girl scouts attending Camp Graham.

Please join the fun and support our Yellow Duck Race at the hotel Lazy River on Saturday at 4:00pm. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third ducks that finish the race. A special prize will be



awarded to the duck that finishes last. Tickets can be purchased up until the race starts. The proceeds from the race benefit the OI Childhood Cancer research fund at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. This year we will have a limited number of duck available so buy your duck tickets early.



Thank you for all your support for the kids, their families, the medical staff, and the funds to do the research. Every little bit helps.

Trish Verne,
Childhood Cancer Campaign Chairman

Golden Circle Present Bell Tower to James & Connie Children's Hospital in Greenville, NC



From left: Ann Cook (seated), Kathy Sandifer, Linda Watson, (front), Angela Iwaniuk (back), Celia Wise, Joy Belle Finch, Linda Shepherd, Janice Lamm, Linda Mizzelle, Brenda Carter, Norma Duell, Diane Johnson, Jeannette Ferrell .



OI Foundation – Patch and Print Awards



Cape Fear, Kathy Brennan, Presenting, Al Ludlum.



Raleigh Dinner, Rich Cash, Presenting, Al Ludlum.



Goldsboro, Jewel Wilson, Presenting, Al Ludlum.



Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler, Presenting, Al Ludlum.



Whiteville, Don Harritan, Presenting, Al Ludlum.



Wilmington, Al Ludlum, Presenting, Bill Edgerton.

Collector Plates

Jerry & Libbie Medlin

Yancey Hines.

OI Foundation Continued

Dime-A-Day Members

Jerry & Libbie Medlin
 Faye Wheeler
 Dorothy Windham
 Isabelle Flock
 Yancey Hines
 Carol Hoal
 Raymond Goodwin
 George Peterson
 Tommy & Voloria Peele

Brenda Goodwin
 William & Vivian Davis
 Sam Toler
 Thomas Harrell
 R. Heath King
 Eric Underwood
 David Heath
 Don & Judy Harritan
 Bobby Hensley
 Eric Pait
 Mark Harriton
 Brent Lawson

Through July 31st, our clubs and members have donated almost \$14,000 to the Foundation. Our goal for this year is about \$22,000. If your club had donated already, please accept my gratitude. If your club has not donated, please consider bringing your donation to the district convention in Myrtle Beach. Please encourage your members to consider the Dime-a-Day program of just \$36.50 per year. The Foundation helps our clubs and district in many ways. Hope to see you at the convention.

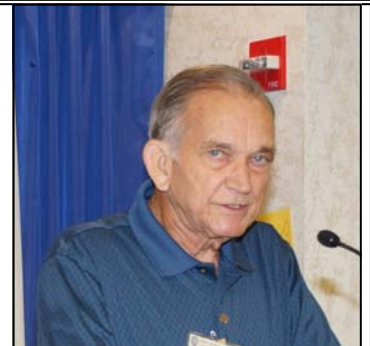
Next page shows the total dollars donated by clubs and its members and the dollar average per member. You can tell from this what you need to donate to get in line for the free Bar-B-Que ribs for your club. There will two cookouts, one for the most total dollars and one for the most dollars per member.

Even if you are not in contention for the cookout, donating to the Foundation is a very worthwhile effort for all optimist. Along with all the money for the four scholarships our district receives, it also helps keep our dues down by providing much of the information each club receives from Optimist International.

Please bring your club check to the dis-

trict convention and encourage your members to join the Dime-A-Day.

THANKS, BILL EDGERTON, DISTRICT FOUNDATION REP.



St. Lawrence scenic route

OI Foundation Club Standings

	Per Member Average	Total Donations		Per Member Average	Total Donations
Duplin	\$16.67	\$200.	Wilmington	\$39.47	\$592.
Rocky Mt. Breakfast	\$11.29	\$158.	Winter Park	\$5.82	\$396.
Cape Fear	\$6.15	\$547.	South Johnston	\$5.89	\$277.
Raleigh Dinner	\$88.75	\$1065.	Greenville	\$0.32	\$108.
Garner	\$4.39	\$250.	Elm City	\$0.23	\$6.
Golden Circle	\$19.23	\$846.	Bennett Wilson	\$0.00	\$0.
Goldsboro	\$42.15	\$2023.	Carteret	\$0.00	\$0.
Henderson	\$18.55	\$872.	Chowan Edenton	\$0.00	\$0.
North Raleigh	\$0.00	\$0.	Elizabethtown	\$0.00	\$0.
Raleigh	\$18.19	\$1037.	Greater Spring Lake	\$0.00	\$0.
Roanoke Rapids	\$0.32	\$8.	Laurensburg	\$0.00	\$0.
Rocky Mt. Evening	\$67.85	\$2239.	Northern Wake	\$0.00	\$0.
Whiteville	\$22.58	\$858.	Roxboro	\$0.00	\$0.
Southern Wake	\$31.25	\$250.	Tarboro	\$0.00	\$0.
Wilson Evening	\$4.76	\$100.	Wake Forest	\$0.00	\$0.
Chapel Hill	\$40.93	\$573.	Washington	\$0.00	\$0.



Narrow streets of Quebec

Optimist Junior Golf Tournament



Congratulations North Carolina East Champions



Patrick Stephenson

2016
World Cup



Natalie Petersen

TEAM USA

NC East Champions Patrick Stephenson (Four Oaks) and Natalie Petersen (Holly Springs) have been selected as two of four golfers who will represent the United States in the July 30th Optimist World Cup. Patrick and Natalie will form the USA's boy-girl team. Yes, it is NC East against the world. Our District should be proud of Patrick's and Natalie's accomplishments and of their recognition by Optimist International as two of the best golfers in the field from the United States. The USA has not placed in the top three World Cup Teams in the past two years, but 2016 can be the year of NC East .

Starting play on August 1st, our Boys 16-18 year representatives at PGA National will be stronger than ever. Trey Capps (Garner), Michael Coe (Morrisville), and Bryson Boyette (Wilson) join Patrick Stephenson to make the NC East District Optimist International's best represented district. Natalie Petersen returns to the OPTIMIST for her second year after winning our Wedgewood Qualifier on June 20th and previously having qualified in February at the Optimist Tour's Greg Norman Qualifier where she won by 16 strokes. Madison Elliott from North Myrtle Beach qualified for the OPTIMIST at our June 20th Wedgewood Qualifier and will also represent NC East.

I would like to thank those Optimist clubs and individuals who have supported NC East District Junior

Golf in 2015-2016. I hope that I will get the opportunity to personally thank everyone who assisted in this program. Our accomplishments in the past two years have been remarkable. In 2013 and in 2014, there were thirty (30) young golfers each year that participated in NC East Qualifiers. In 2015, we were able to increase the number of participating golfers to eighty-eight (88). This year the number of junior golfers that played in NC East Pre-Qualifiers and Qualifiers increased to two-hundred seventy-four (274). We are currently exploring how we can make our NC East Junior Golf tournaments even better in 2017.

Optimist International President designate Jim Kondrasuk has appointed me to serve on Optimist International's 2016-2017 Golf Committee as one of the committee's five members. I look forward to serving Optimist International in this capacity and in serving the young golfers of the world who participate in Optimist golf. Thank you

all again for allowing me the opportunity to serve our NC East golfers.

See you in Myrtle Beach.

David Hodges

District Junior Golf Chair



NC East District Convention

Beach Cove Resort

N. Myrtle Beach, SC

August 25-28, 2016



Mark Harris, Mid Atlantic Vice President, was NC East district 3rd Quarter meeting guest. Mark held a town hall session during the Friday night meeting. Also addressed the membership during Saturday morning business meeting and also at the luncheon.



District Club Fitness/Club Services Chair

Hello Optimists,

Where has the time gone—we were just here at the Beach Cove Resort a short while ago. It is difficult to believe that we are already in the Fourth Quarter of the 2015-16 Optimist Year. I have always heard that time flies when you are having fun and I can attest to the fact that all district officers, club officers, club members, and Friends of Optimists have been diligent in taking care of business, enjoying informative programs, having fun while conducting fundraisers, attending district meetings/conventions, and ensuring all finances were kept in order while “Serving the Youth in Our Communities.”

That being said—at the Optimist International Convention, President Dave Bruns reminded us

“that as we enter the fourth quarter of the current Optimist year and look forward to the new Optimist year, we are not in a relay race where one team hands off the baton to the next year's team on October 1st and then rests while the new team runs the next lap. Rather, we are ALL OPTIMISTS on the same team working for a shared goal.”

All of you in the NC East District have worked diligently to bring in new members, retain current members, build new clubs and your efforts go unnoticed. While we have worked hard to reclaim the **#1 ranking** in Optimist International, we are still ranked **#2**. The Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan and Northern Wyoming District ranks **#1** and stands at **PLUS 154 in membership (111.12% growth)** for the year with two new clubs. This club has been faced with an economic crisis and massive fires raging throughout their territory but together, they worked even harder to in-

vite others to join our noble cause and to bring Optimism to communities that are in need of the type of “hands-on” services we provide.

On August 1, the NC East District was

PLUS 63 in membership (**105.99% growth**) for the year with two new clubs. So, by the time you read this, we have less than 45 days to reach out to recruit additional members, additional Friends of Optimist, and build another club or two to reach our goal and reclaim the **#1 rank** in Optimist International. Is that possible, **absolutely**, but we must work as a **TEAM** to accomplish the goals we set forth earlier in the year.

Optimists, our backs are against the wall so let's think basketball strategies for a moment—it is time for the **“Full Court Press”**—hit the boards, score the points, and bring home the victory for the “Youth in Our Communities.”

Thank you for all you do; it has been my pleasure serving as your teammate this past year. **Remember**—“*Serving Youth Today – Grows Optimists for Tomorrow!*” As the **Little Red Caboose** said—“**I think I can, I know I can, I CAN!**” and, as President Dave Bruns and Governor Allan Ludlum says, **“Right Here, Right Now!!!”**

Yours in Optimism,

Lou Anna

*Lou Anna Hardee
Club Fitness Advisor Chair,
Finance Chair,
Lt. Governor*



NORTH CAROLINA

EAST DISTRICT

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

THIRD QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING

First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, May 7, 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 Secr/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

The following clubs were represented:

Zone 1: Wilmington Cape Fear; Wilmington

Zone 2: Whiteville

Zone 3: Wilson Golden Circle; Goldsboro; Wilson Evening

Zone 4: Greenville; Roanoke Rapids; Rocky Mount Breakfast; Rocky Mount Evening;

Rocky Mount Blackbird

Zone 5: Henderson; Wake Forest

Zone 6: Raleigh Dinner; Raleigh; Chapel Hill; Southern Wake

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

Governor Ludlum asked for all First Timers to stand and be recognized. Governor Ludlum then recognized Past Governors. He asked them to stand and give their year of service. Present were James Lamm (2013-14); Dan Durham (2007-08); Errol Warren (2012-13); Lou Anna Hardee (2009-10); Sandy Cyphers (2002-03); Gary Pender (2006-07); Wayne Sidelinger (1990-91); and Carey Foster (2001-02).

District Secretary/Treasurer Don Harritan presented the minutes of the 2015-2016 2nd Quarter meeting. Motion was made by Curtis Hardee (Greenville) with a second by Phil Best (Wilmington) to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

Harritan presented the 2nd Quarter Financial Report for review. Motion was made to approve by Jim Hart (Rocky Mount Breakfast) with second by Lou Anna Hardee (Greenville). Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- Oratorical Contest: Oratorical Chair Darrell Fulcher gave instructions for the Oratorical Contest, Contestants, and Audience. He reminded everyone that no videos or photographs could be taken during the contest except by the official videographer. He also reminded everyone to turn cell phones off and that no one should leave or enter the room during a contestant's speech. He gave thanks to Yancey Hines for videos, Wayne Sidelinger for photography, Bill and Jan Edgerton for being the contestant hosts, and Bob Verne for hosting the contest judges.
- New Club Building: Chairman Angela Iwaniuk asked for members of the new Blackbird Optimist Club of Rocky Mount to stand. Iwaniuk then recognized Linda Shepherd and Charles Dunn as Builders of Excellence for their efforts in building the Blackbird Club. Shepherd accepted her award. Dunn was not present. Governor Ludlum then reported that on April 26, he and OI Field Rep Don Harritan participated in a skyped organizational meeting for the Mahler Thorp International Sports Club in Rocky Mount. He recognized David Hodges as the organizer for the new club. The final paper work for this club is expected to be completed in the next week with 28 charter members.

- OI Foundation: Chairman Billy Edgerton reported that at the end of April NC East was in 7th place in OI in total dollars given and in 3rd place in dollars per member given to the Foundation. He reported that he had recently sent out a report on club standings in the Pig-Picking Cookout contest. He commended Rocky Mount Evening, Wilson Golden Circle, and Whiteville for their efforts in the Dime-a-Day Program. Edgerton then made presentations to S. Johnston (Benefactor); Cape Fear (Banner Patch & Print); Raleigh Dinner (Patch & Print); Goldsboro (Patch & Print); North Raleigh (Patch & Print); Rocky Mount Evening (Print); Whiteville (Patch & Print); Wilmington (Patch & Print). He asked that Dime-a-Day contributors see him if they had not yet received their pins. Altar Call: Rocky Mount Evening (\$375); Raleigh (\$1000 for a Christian D. Larson Award).
- Childhood Cancer: Chairman Trish Verne reported that the CCC has succeeded in funding a research grant at Johns Hopkins in excess of \$1.5 million to fight childhood cancer. She reminded all to see the article in the current bulletin on the "End of Treatment Bell" donated to the Duke Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic by the Chapel Hill Club. She reminded everyone that June is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and encouraged clubs to find and support a family affected by childhood cancer.
- Boys and Girls Homes of NC: Boys and Girls Homes Chair Gary Pender reported that there are currently seven boys in the Optimist Cottage. He reported that the campus charter school Flemington Academy is doing well and also mentioned the success on campus of the LAKE (Loving and Knowledgeable Environment) HOME for teen moms. Pender said that the campus landscaping was looking great. Altar Call: Rocky Mount Evening (\$375); Raleigh (\$1500).

BREAK FOR ORATORICAL CONTEST

Committee Reports (continued)

- Achievements and Awards: Chairman Dan Durham presented A&A for the 2nd quarter as follows:
Top Ten Clubs (10. South Johnston; 9. Roanoke Rapids; 8. Rocky Mount Evening; 7. Garner; 6. Cape Fear; 5. Raleigh; 4. Goldsboro; 3. Whiteville; 2. Greenville; 1. Wilson Golden Circle. The top clubs by Zone were

Cape Fear (1); Whiteville (2); Wilson Golden Circle (3); Greenville (4); Northern Wake (5); and Raleigh (6). Top Lt. Governors were #1 Jerry Medlin; #2 Lou Anna Hardee; and #3 Brenda Farmer.

- Membership: Governor Ludlum presented membership incentive awards in absence of Chairman Austin Pusey. Twenty-six members were recognized with Wal-Mart gift cards for sponsoring a total of 35 new members in the 2nd quarter. In addition, a certificate of recognition was presented to Jan Edgerton for reaching the Ten Member Award plateau.
- OI Ambassador: Carey Foster reminded everyone that the early bird window for OI Convention registration has ended but members can still register for the convention. Currently, approximately ten are from the district are planning to attend the convention. He asked anyone with questions to contact him.
- Junior Golf: David Hodges reported that his group has been very busy with junior tournaments, having recently cooked hotdogs in support of four recent events including the 2A and 3A East Regional high school tournaments. He reminded everyone of the OIJGC qualifier scheduled for June 20 in Rocky Mount. He talked about the new club that is being built and its unusual focus of being an international club with members from all over.

BREAK OUT ZONE MEETINGS TO ELECT ZONE LT. GOVERNORS

2016-2017 Lt. Governor Election Results:

- Zone 1: Phil Best
- Zone 2: Open at this point
- Zone 3: Linda Shepherd
- Zone 4: Errol Warren
- Zone 5: Cathy Potter
- Zone 6: Open at this point

Committee Reports (continued)

- Convention/JOOI/PGI: Sandy Cyphers brought our attention to the district "bibles" which we should use often. The first is the District Directory which pro-

vides much information about programs and resources as well as leadership contacts. The second is the Quarterly Bulletin. She directed our attention to the information in the current bulletin relative to the upcoming summer district convention August 26-28. She assured us that it would be a wonderful event with great training, special entertainment, and delicious food. As JOOI chair, Cyphers extended an invitation to all of the young people present for the oratorical contest to go back to their schools and form a JOOI club. Procedures and contact information is in each of the "bibles". On PGI, Cyphers presented a Level 10 pin to Lou Anna Hardee, recognized Linda Shepherd for reaching Level 6, and noted the progress of several others. Governor Ludlum asked for Level 10 's who were present to stand. The group included Lou Anna Hardee, Carey Foster, Wayne Sidelinger, and Sandy Cyphers.

- Club Fitness: Chairman Lou Anna Hardee reported that currently NC East is plus in membership and ranks 3rd in OI in membership. Governor Ludlum is #3 on the Leaderboard. She reported that all clubs in the district are current in OI dues. She reminded club officers the CLUB OFFICER REPORT is due by May 20 and her goal is to have 100% compliance. She encouraged clubs not to wait until the last minute to get the report in. Hardee also encouraged members to be familiar with and read the OI "Hotline" to keep up with the activities in OI.
- Closing: Governor Ludlum thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their efforts in making the meeting a success. Responding to a comment by Lt. Governor Brenda Farmer, he encouraged all to check the district directory information and report changes and updates as necessary. Governor Elect Jim Hart encouraged members to join the Dime-a-Day if not already participating, thanked Trish Verne for the CCC hats, thanked everyone for attending and for volunteering, and said he was looking forward to the Myrtle Beach Convention. Oratorical Chair Darrell Fulcher donated to Gary Pender one of his collectible OI Foundation plates for the church in appreciation for the hospitality shown.

The meeting was recessed at 12:15 for the Oratorical/ Essay Luncheon prepared by Haywood Catering of Goldsboro (101 people attended the luncheon).

Following lunch, the meeting reconvened for presentation

of the Essay Contest and Oratorical Contest contestants and winners.

Essay Contest: Sandy Cyphers reported on the District Essay Contest. She reported that there were fifteen essays submitted to the district on the topic "Lead By Example: Reality or Fiction". Ashley Lamb of Raleigh was the winner. Ashley read her essay to the audience and was presented with her plaque and a \$2500 college scholarship. Second Place was Seth Hatchell of Laurinburg and third place was Coleman Anderson of Greenville.

CCDHH: Angela Iwaniuk reported on the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. First Place and winner of the \$2500 scholarship was William McNeal. Second Place was Jasmine Jenkins and 3rd place was Danielle Morley. The winners were not present.

Oratorical Contest: Chairman Darrell Fulcher introduced and thanked the judges for the contest. Contestants then introduced themselves and family members present. Winners were Sarah Golden (First Place-Carteret-\$2500 scholarship); Zachary Bonds-Cape Fear-Second Place-\$1500 scholarship); and Hilda Kolawole-Wake Forest-\$1000 scholarship). Others competing were George Karadzhev (Cape Fear); Maggie High (Whiteville); Kylee Coppock (Goldsboro); Harriet Bowles (Greenville); Natalie Riggs (Roanoke Rapids); Samantha Hines (Henderson); and Jalen Bookhart (Raleigh).

In conclusion, International VP Mark Harris thanked the NC East District for the weekend hospitality and for adding to his family of friends. He offered congratulations to all oratorical and essay contestants and encouraged the non-winners to continue their efforts in next year's contests. He wished the winner well in the regional contest. He spoke on the achievements so far of the NC East District and the competition with NC West. He warned to keep an eye on membership competition from the Virginia/Capital Region. He spoke to the audience of the good work that Optimists do and how it is sometimes a well-kept secret. Harris ensured Optimists that the work we do does make a difference even though we may not immediately realize it. To the non-optimists, he asked that they consider joining us in our community efforts.

Adjourned with the Optimist Creed at 2:10 p.m.

Don Harritan,
District Secretary/Treasurer

Judy Harritan,
Recording Secretary



District Membership

Greetings Fellow Optimists. I know our notes in the District Bulletin may sound repetitive, but after all this is an election year. With that said, PLEASE reach out and search for new members as we wound down our current Optimist year. We are proudly in 3rd place in the International standings, but we actually backslid slightly, as we have been as high as 2nd. Let's send Governor Al out in style!

President Dave just sent out a message to encourage us to reach out to another great service organization. Effective immediately, you can recruit a teacher into our organization the same as the 30 under 30 program.

That's right. Teachers may now come into our organization for \$30 for their first year. Everyone knows a teacher and what better way to show your appreciation for them than to bring them into our organization at this incredibly low price.

Optimist International has made a slight change to the way they distribute membership pins. In the

past, we (Membership Chair and Governor) passed out ALL milestone pins. Now, OI will send your pins directly to you up to 50. The 50 and above pins will be sent to the Governor for distribution at the District meetings. Pay attention this weekend, as we have a couple receiving their 50 member pins. This says one of two things (or both). That's a lot of hard work or it's a sign of age? I'll leave it at that. Keep up the good work and dedication to our organization.

There's thousands of kids depending on our great work. The awards and accolades are nice, but when it's all said and done, we do what we do for our kids. "Remember, membership is an honor and privilege.....so SHARE it"

Auston Pusey



Auston Pusey

District Membership Chair

Great Truths.....by other notables. (From North Raleigh Bulletin)

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts". - Will Rogers

"What this country needs is more unemployed politicians" - Edward Langley

"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office" - Aesop

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have" -



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 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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