

North Carolina East Optimist News

Greeting to my Fellow Optimists:

It is indeed an honor and high privilege for you to allow me to lead our North Carolina East District. When Bob Chandler first invited me to become a member of the Rocky Mount Breakfast Optimist Club, never in my wildest dreams would I have ever thought that someday, I would have the challenge and the opportunity to be in this position. I appreciate your confidence in me and in my abilities, and the well wishes that so many of you have shared with me as we rocket into the new year. But, here I am, and I'm ready, with your help and commitment, to get it on!

Our District's motto this year will be, "Yes You Can - Yes We Will". This "can do" attitude is mirrored in the challenge we have already been handed by Optimist International to have 100,000 members by our 100th year of service to the children in our communities. As we drive on toward that goal, I ask that

the Lt. Governors and Club Presidents remember the recruitment challenges I have presented them with.

As you are reading this, we will have started a new Optimist year. We have survived a major hurricane that has wrought devastation and misery all across our eastern and southeastern counties of our District. We have had our patience and our resolve tested by this tragedy, but we still know what our mission is, and we will carry that mission in our hearts. Our mission is to serve the youth in our communities, for they are the most valuable resource we have. I humbly ask that you, the great optimists of



North Carolina East, continue with the desire to grow our District.

Our first District meeting will be on October 28th and 29, 2016 at Lake Waccamaw, NC. We will resume having the Executive Board meeting on Friday evening, and then afterwards, we will have an auction that will benefit Optimist International Foundation and Boys & Girls Home. Our District's meeting will be on Saturday morning and the afternoon has been dedicated to the entertainment of the boys and girls living at the "Lake". Enjoy your time there.

As you attend to your Club's business, and to our District's business, please remember that the 8-12

minutes you may gain while speeding on our roadways may help you short-term, but your life is not worth the gamble you are taking. You are important to this District, and you are most important to the children we have pledged to serve as we press on to the greater achievements of the future !!

Yours for the greater good of Optimism,

Jim Hart

Governor 2016 - 2017

North Carolina East District

Optimist Convention Golf Tournament Trophy Winners



1st Place, Bennie Bass's team from Cape Fear. In photo, Curtis Keith, Cape Fear, Ray Cockrell & Gary Pender, B&G Home reps.



2nd Place, Auston Pusey's team. From left, Ray Cockrell, Auston Pusey, Cape Fear & Gary Pender.

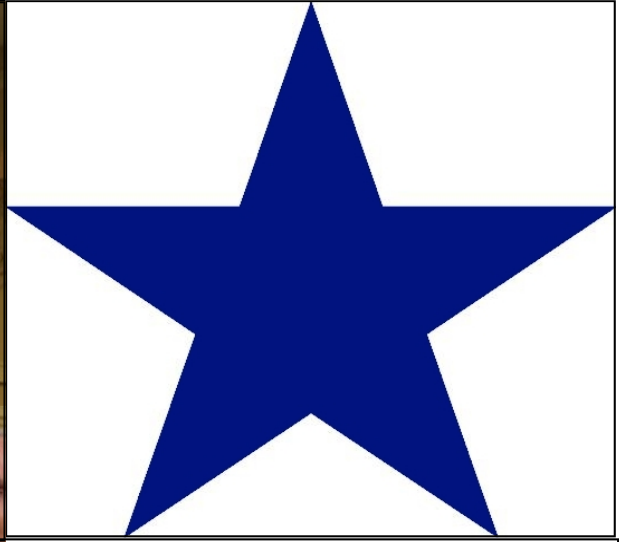


3rd Place, Don Harritan's team, From left, Ray Cockrell, Don Harritan, Whiteville & Gary Pender.



Closest to the pin award, Auston Pusey, Cape Fear. In photo Ray Cockrell, Auston Pusey & Gary Pender.

First Timers at 4th Quarter District Meeting



Hilda and Jerry Delbridge, Henderson Optimist.



Hunter Upchurch, Elm City Optimist

J. G. Baker, Raleigh Optimist

First Timers at 4th Quarter District Meeting



Susan and Frank Woche, Elm City Optimist

District Convention 2016-2017

2017 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Locations for the 2017 Summer Conference are being reviewed and searched at this time. This is and has been an undertaking for those involved for the past few years. Please understand that consideration of expense to our optimist members is the **NUMBER ONE** thing taken into consideration when trying to find a location.

As you that have been members and attended numerous district conferences we have tried to have this event in several different locations within the N.C. East District. Unfortunately, attendance was very low we witnessed unless it was by the Atlantic Ocean and with the ocean comes an increase in room rates.

For those of you that have knowledge and experience in trying to negotiate rates and prices you fully understand the process. For example: Room rates might be lower but the cost of the rooms for training, banquet, etc. could run as much as \$4000 or \$8000 for Friday and Saturday. Yes, I have received that proposed amount from two of the 17 motels I have been in contact with. Then on another note if the rooms for meetings and banquet are at no charge to the district then the room rates would be \$159.00 plus tax.

I am still searching but the room rates at \$129.00 at Beach Cove with no charge to the district for meeting rooms seems to be the overall BEST!

I share this information for you to understand that we are working on the most reasonable prices at all possible for you as a N.C. East District member.

Locations in N.C. that have been contacted are Atlantic Beach, New Bern, Wrightsville Beach, Carolina Beach and Wilmington downtown. Others contacted have been Myrtle Beach.

If you would like to share with me any suggestions at this time I would be glad to hear them.

Sandy Cyphers

N.C. East District Convention Chair

910-367-3295



Lt. Governor Linda Shepherd shares a photo of her visit to Carteret Optimist Club. From left; John Shepherd, Denard Harris, Linda Shepherd and Kay Harris.

District Membership

Greetings Fellow Optimists! Hope all who were affected by Hurricane Matthew are doing well. I know some will be affected for several weeks/months.

Congratulations to "Team Ludlum" and the NC East District on finishing fourth internationally and once again achieving distinguished district status. Thanks to all who contributed by bringing in new Optimists. Remember the beneficiaries of our recruiting efforts is the children we serve. Not much to report, as we are less than a month into our new year. Currently, we have brought in 6 new members while losing 9. We are ranked 26th internationally. Keep an eye open for potential new members. They are out there!

Please stay on top of your rosters. If you have members you need to drop, please don't wait until September 30. You have several months to recover if you will keep your rosters up to date.

Again, I wish all who were affected by Hurricane Matthew a speedy recovery and hope to see you at Lake Waccamaw.

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

Auston Pusey
Membership Chair



Auston Pusey
District Membership Chair

Membership Awards 50 Member Pins



50 Member Pin presented to Sandy Cyphers by District Membership Chair, Auston Pusey.



50 Membership Pin presented to Don Harritan by District Membership Chair, Auston Pusey.

Borrow money from pessimists; they don't expect it back.

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

All those who believe in psychokinesis , raise my hand.

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese

From Optimist of North Raleigh

2016-2017 Oratorical Contest

Topic: "What the World Gains From Optimism"

The topic leaves a wide open field for students. Each student will be given 4-5 minutes to present their speech on the assigned topic.

Applications, official rules and program guide are available from the Optimist International website, <http://www.optimist.org/>

Boys and girls who are under the age of 19 and who have not graduated from high school will compete together in a combine gender contest.

Three scholarships are awarded at the district level \$2500 (1st place), \$1500 (2nd place) and \$1000 (3rd place). Clubs are allowed to give monetary awards of up to \$500 per winner in contest. This may be in the form of a scholarship, a savings bond or a cash prize.

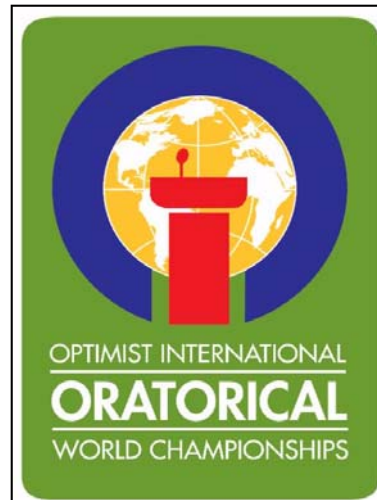
The names of the Zone Oratorical winners must be provided to the District Chair by Friday, April 22, 2017.

The District Oratorical Contest will be held on May 6th 2017 at the 3rd quarter District meeting.

The contest is open to all public, private, charter schools including home schooled students.

Please contact as soon as possible. Place an article in the local newspaper or other places to attract students, this is a great opportunity.

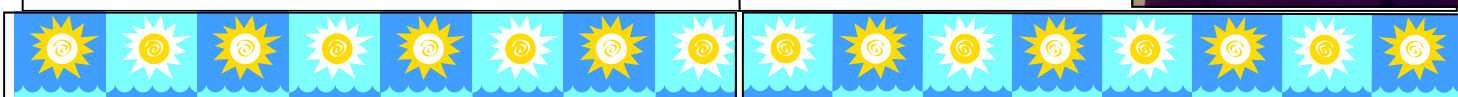
Virginia Haden



Welcome to the 2016-17 Optimist year. I look forward to working with all of the new club presidents and Governor Jim. The A&A program is a great program for your club to use and share with the other clubs in the district the Optimist programs and the special programs you complete within your local communities. The A&A reporting forms for this year will be on the cover page of the District web site by early December. The forms will be able to be downloaded in several formats and can be completed on your computer and forwarded to my e-mail address. Should you not use e-mail I will send the form to your president or secretary in December. The Reporting form that will be but on the web site will not change each quarter. It will be used for all four quarters and you can download a form to use during the year while you are doing the activities in your community. All points being sent for the current quarter need to be for programs or activities that began and were completed during the current quarter. Each quarter the following awards will be presented: The top ten clubs in the District will be presented a Cer-

tificate of Achievement. The top club in each zone will be awarded an Award of achievement and the top three Lt. Governors will receive an Award of Achievement. All clubs that submit a reporting form that do not get awarded in the top ten will receive an Award of Participation. I hope all clubs in the district will consider being a part of the programs. I also would like all club presidents that sponsored new clubs to share this program with your sponsored club during the follow ups with the new club. The last awards to be presented are the top three clubs for the complete year and the number one Lt. Governor of the year. Please take the time to discover this program. Other awards may be presented as incentives by Governor Jim during the year. Thanks for being a part of the A&A Awards program for 2016-17.

Dan Durham A&A Chair
2016-2017



Governors Banquet



Governor Al Ludlum and Joan formal introduction at Governors Banquet



Installing New Officers for the upcoming year: From Left, Governor Jim Hart, Secretary/Treasurer, Carol Collier, Lt. Governor Zone 3, Linda Shepherd, Lt. Governor Zone 5, Cathy Potter, Lt. Governor Zone 4, Errol Warren.

Optimist International Essay Contest

Topic for the 2016-17 School Year is:

"Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges"

Who: Youth under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016 located in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean.

How To Enter: Interested students must contact their local Optimist Club. They need to submit an essay on the pre-assigned topic. To find out a contact, please e-mail the Programs Department at programs@optimist.org.

The Essay Contest planning pages are intended for use by Optimist Clubs in organizing and conducting a contest in their Club. They contain no information on entering the contest and are of no use to students wishing to enter the contest. Students must contact their local Optimist Club.

When:

Students All Club-level contests are held by early February. Student submissions will not be accepted after the Club-level contests have closed. Please contact your District Chair for more information.

Clubs and Districts The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28, 2017. The deadline for Districts to submit their winner's information to Optimist International is April 15, 2017. For an application with contest rules, please [click here](#). The application must be submitted to the sponsoring Optimist Club.

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

The guidelines require that contestants be under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016 and attending school in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean. Club winners advance to



the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. The District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations.

Information for Optimist Members planning the contest:

All Members can now view and conveniently print planning pages for any International Program from your home computer. [Click here](#) to view the 2016-2017 Club Essay Contest planning pages. [Click here](#) to view the 2016-2017 District Essay Contest planning pages. To view the planning pages for any of the International Programs and Community Activities, please visit the [Planning Guides](#) page.

Essay Contest Package - A Program Package for the Essay Contest is available on the [Package Programs](#) page of the website. On that page, Clubs can find useful materials to help them get started with a new Essay Contest program.

Support merchandise for this program can be ordered through Shumsky for US and Caribbean Clubs and from Ansell's Awards and Specialties for Canadian Clubs. Contact information for both supply companies can be found [here](#).

To enter, you must contact your local Optimist Club!

David Bast

District Chair

Email:

sss.dbast@yahoo.com



Hello Optimist Friends;

It is has been an honor and privilege for me to serve as the 2015-2016 Governor of the North Carolina East District of Optimist International. I am humbled by your confidence. As we have closed another Optimist Year; another one has arrived and will be another challenging year for all. With our Growth Team and all members working together, to continue that momentum, this will be yet another year to remember! Our organizations success depends upon YOU!

To reach Optimist International's goal of 100,000 members by Optimist International's 100th birthday, we will need to expand membership and build new clubs to serve the youth of our communities and district. Take a look around you and identify areas with youth that would benefit from a new club. Optimist clubs have been a "Friend of Youth" and "Bringing Out the Best in Youth" by conducting service projects and providing a helping hand to the youth of our communities. Also, by believing in young people, you give them a chance to be the best they can be. Let's begin conducting NOW Programs during the first quarter to attract new members. Growth starts at the club level! At this time of year we lose Optimist members for one reason or another, do not delay to bring in a new member to replace that loss.

We built three new clubs, bring the district a

total of 38, are plus 98 members from the start of the year. At this time I am proud to announce we should have 6 Honor Clubs, 5 Distinguished Clubs, 3 Zones Distinguished, 3 Lt Governors Distinguished and a Distinguished District. We were the number 2 district for most of the year, then some other districts caught fire and when the fire ended on September 30, 2016 we closed the year number 4. I say we had a great year. It could not have been accomplished without each and every one of you!

Again, I look forward to the challenges our district faces for another year as I serve as Immediate Past Governor of the North Carolina East District. The efforts and contributions of all Members will dictate our success. As we grow, we should not lose focus on the real reason we are a part of this great organization. We are truly the "Friend of Youth", so let's support our young people accordingly. Since our mission this year is to grow our District, I'll conclude with these parting words, from Past Governor Auston Pusey, "Remember, Membership is an honor and privilege....so share it."

Yours in Optimism,
Allan Ludlum
Governor 2015-2016

"Right Here Right
Now, Being a Friend



Friday night dinner prior to Fun Night Activities.



The Boys and Girls homes are doing well and had very little damage from the storm. The Optimist cottage at this time has 7 boys living there and about 50 children on campus. Flemington Academy Middle which was built this past year is open to students and things are going great. Our upcoming district meeting is also our optimist Fun Day and I hope that all of you stay after the lunch on Saturday and take a tour of the

optimist cottage or the campus. We As Optimist should be very proud of our cottage that we can help Provide a home for those children that don't have one. I heard someone say that children make up 25% of our population and 100% of our Future.



Thank You on Behalf of All Children
Gary Pender District Chair



Gary Pender,
District B&G Chair

Hello Optimist once again it is AUCTION time for the OI Foundation and the Boys and Girls Homes. Bill Edgerton and I are INVITING ALL Of YOU to Lake Waccamaw for our annual Auction. As you know both are very important to our district and help a lot of children. We are asking you to clean out your attic and closets and bring those unwanted items and let's raise MONEY. If you can't be at the District meeting, give those items to one of your club members to bring. Also once again by popular demand we will have Mr. Rich Cash and Mr. Carlton Baird running the auction for us. We do need help collecting money or helping us keep up with what

got sold and who bought the Item. If you could help in any way please let us know.

PS: Don't Forget YOUR CASH or YOUR CHECK BOOK

Thank You
Gary Pender
Cell 919-920-9190

From Wake Forest Optimist Club

We were very fortunate to receive a grant from Sam's Club Wake Forest in the amount of \$1,000.00 that will be spent on **Comfort Kits for Child Protective Services**. We will set-up a shopping day and begin to put the kits together that will be for children coming into the program as they have been deemed to be abused or neglected. There are 30-40 new kids each year. The kits will contain a pillow, duffle bag, radio

or game boy, picture frame, toothbrush, fun blanket, pajamas, plush stuffed animal, to name a few items. This is the start of a partnership with Child Protective Services and we will continue to fund this program through fundraising and grants.

Dawn is in the middle of a grant-writing course at Wake Tech and will put her newly acquired skills to work for the club.

New Club Building

2016-2017 N.C. EAST DISTRICT NEW CLUB BUILDING

North Carolina has 100 counties with over 740 cities, towns and municipalities. The majority of these do not have Optimist Clubs...thus they are not serving the children in their communities. The North Carolina East District has so many opportunities to add clubs in this district...if each of us would just stop and think of the unlimited possibilities of where a New Club could be built...we would be overwhelmed! So many possibilities for kids to play sports, participate in contests, be mentored by adult optimists, receive scholarships. The list goes on and on to how having an Optimist Club in a community could help be a 'FRIEND OF YOUTH' and assist in "Bringing Out The Best in Youth". There are numerous optimist members in this district that I know without a doubt would help and assist with any optimist and any club in building a new club.....All you have to do is ask. As the saying goes, two heads are better than one and even four heads are better than two. Governor Jim cannot do it by himself and he is not expected to. We as optimists are to assist with this rewarding task.

2016-2017 Recognition Program: For any new club

that is built there can be four "Builders of Excellence." Does not matter how many clubs assist in the building.

So I charge you to get a team or current optimist clubs together and find that community/town/city/county to work together to MAKE IT HAPPEN in 2017.

OPTIMIST VISION STATEMENT: Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values children and helps develop them to their full potential. This vision can only be a reality if we each take a part in helping to grow this organization. I ask you to help Governor Jim, Lt. Governors, club Presidents and the district in building a club or clubs... Get with the N.C. East Team and work to MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Sandy Cyphers

District Leadership Development Chairman



Certificate of Builder of Excellence was presented to Linda Shepherd, Jim Hart and David Hodges, by Angela Iwaniuk, New Club Building Chair. Earning the award but not present, Tommy Peele, Waymouth Allen and Charles Dunn.

PERSONAL GROWTH AND INVOLVEMENT

It's that time of the year again. It's time to update your passports. PGI is your passport to personal development, increased member involvement and club growth. Participation in PGI offers Members the opportunity for personal growth while working at their own pace. It will provide fresh ideas for Club meetings.

BENEFITS OF THE PERSONAL GROWTH AND INVOLVEMENT

- Allows Club Members to be recognized and appreciated for personal and professional accomplishments.
- Gives Members an opportunity to participate in long term Club involvement while learning more about Optimism.
- Gives each Member personal responsibility for his/her involvement in the Club's activities.

Offers personal growth opportunities to each Member.

Provides Members with Club meeting, membership recruitment and retention ideas.

The PGI program offers each Optimist Member the opportunity to grow personally and learn more about Optimism while advancing through the ten levels of involvement, personal growth and achievement.

For more information contact:



Jimmy Lamm

jwlamm@myglnc.com

When John and Linda Shepherd were making plans for their recent travel in Europe, Linda contacted OI to find out where Optimists have clubs in France. Upon learning that the only club in France is located in Maubeuge, they looked for that small town on their map of France. To their amazement, they discovered that it was very near the route they had already planned to travel. Being a retired French teacher, Linda set about writing an e-mail to the officers of the French club. They managed to arrange a date and time, and a meeting was planned for Optimists who live about 4000 miles apart. In one of her e-mails, Linda expressed to the group that she loved all things Optimist and that she adored the French culture, so she knew they would have a good time together. They shared a meal, discussed some of the youth-oriented and fund-raising activities of their individual clubs, and enjoyed conversation, smiles,

and laughter! Optimism looks and feels the same in any locale even when the two cultures do not share a common language. It is truly a tie that binds us together to bring out the best in youth, our communities, ourselves, and even our entire world!



"Children do not care how much you know until they know how much you care."

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you."

From Golden Circle News

JOI

Jr. Optimist International

**A NEW
NAME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**BUT THE SAME GREAT OR-
GANIZATION FOR YOUTH!**

(J.O.I.)

**JUNIOR OPTIMISTS
INTERNATIONAL**

As an optimist you be the judge of whether you pass or still may be in the learning process about **J.O.I.**

1. WHERE COULD WE AS OPTIMISTS IN OUR RESPECTIVE CLUBS FIND FUTURE OPTIMIST MEMBERS?
2. WHO OR WHAT INDIVIDUALS COULD HELP WITH OUR OPTIMIST CLUB PROJECTS?
3. WHO ARE POSSIBLE PERSPECTIVE FUTURE LEADERS IN THE OPTIMIST ORGANIZATION?
4. HOW AND WHERE DO WE FIND THESE INDIVIDUALS?

YES IN.....**J.O.I.**

Junior Optimist International

It is a true fact that J.O.O.I. members have become great adult optimist members that help with thousands of projects conducted by optimist clubs. They have become leaders in their respective clubs and in the International organization. These future members and leaders can be found down the road from us, around the corner from us, across the street, in elementary, middle and high schools, charter schools, home school children, in a sport group, a boy or girl's scout troop, a church group, a youth library group, a boy's or girls' club, etc. etc.

Now, why not share **J.O.I.** with the youth in your club's community? It's easy "**JUST ASK**" for help to get started and your club will be on its way to "**Sharing Optimism**" with our younger generation while also reaping rewards from building a **J.O.I.** club.

Let me know how I can help you or your club begin the pro-



Waimea Canyon, Kauai Hawaii

A&A Club Winners 3rd Quarter – Top Ten Clubs 2015-16



No. 1, Winter Park, Sandy Cyphers; No. 2, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; No. 3, Golden Circle, Linda Shepherd; No. 4, Whiteville, Don Harritan; No. 5, Goldsboro, Raymond Clark.



No. 6, Cape Fear, Curtis Keith; No. 7, Garner, Jerry Medlin; No. 8, Roanoke Rapids, Russell Leake; No. 9, Greenville, Curtis Hardee and No. 10, Wake Forest, Cathy Potter.



Dan Durham,

A&A Zone Winners 3rd Quarter 2015-2016



Zone 1, Winter Park, Sandy Cyphers; Zone 2, Whiteville, Don Harritan; Zone 3, Golden Circle, Linda Shepherd; Zone 4, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; Zone 5, Northern Wake, Gary Pender; Zone 6, Garner, Jerry Medlin.

Top 3 Lt. Governors, 3rd Quarter 2015-2016



No. 1, Lt. Governor Lou Anna Hardee, Zone 4; No. 2, Lt. Governor, Phil Best, Zone 1 (Receiving Al Ludlum); No. 3, Lt. Governor, Jerry Medlin, Zone 6.

Leadership Development

N.C. EAST OPTIMISTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY RESPONSIBILITY...The state of being responsible, accountable, or answerable for a debt or obligation.

Optimists, yes, you and I have a responsibility to this organization we belong to as members to keep it growing and going for future generations. As our MISSION STATEMENT states: By providing hope and positive vision, OPTIMISTS bring out the best in youth. Along with our VISION STATEMENT: Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values children and helps develop them to their full potential.

We need more than ever as Optimists to do our part and even more to provide the hope and positive vision and to strive to work towards making this the premier volunteer organization above all the others...WE CAN DO IT...I BELIEVE in each of you... we can grow, we can keep this wonderful organization vibrant now and in the future...It's up to all of us. Lets' work this year to do our part in growing this organization. "JUST ASK." It doesn't hurt but

can only help make a difference in the future of optimism

Life is a challenge - meet it. Life is a gift - accept it. Life is an adventure - dare it. Life is a sorrow - overcome it. Life is a tragedy - face it. Life is a duty - perform it. Life is a game - play it. Life is a mystery - unfold it. Life is a song - sing it. Life is an opportunity -take it. Life is a journey - complete it. Life is a promise - fulfil it. Life is a beauty - praise it. Life is a struggle - fight it. Life is a goal - achieve it. Life is a puzzle - solve it. Life is eternal - believe it...

"WE MUST TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WE CANNOT CHANGE THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SEASON BUT WE CAN CHANGE OURSELVES".

Sandy Cyphers

Leadership Development Chairman, N.C. East District



Members try bubble gum blowing during Friday Night fun night during convention.

Childhood Cancer Campaign



We hope everyone who attended the annual CCC Yellow Duck Race at the District Convention enjoyed a fun filled afternoon. It was so windy that the ducks went the wrong way when they

were put in the water at the starting line. Governor Allan was in the water and managed to get them started back in the right direction. Along the way to the finish line, several were blown off course into the pool filter ducts. With much encouragement and re-direction from the race crew, the errant ducks returned to the main channel to finish the race. The winners were (1st)

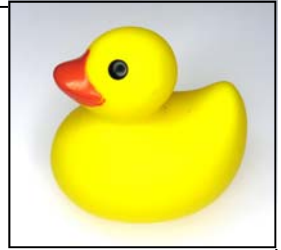
Linda Watson, (2nd) Billy Edgerton, and (3rd) Gary Pender. The last duck to finish the race was awarded a special prize of a super sized Candy Kiss. Carlton Baird happily accepted the award. Many thanks to all who participated, and to the winners who donated their winnings to the total amount of \$847.50 that was raised at the convention. This year the district has raised \$3,767.50 for the Childhood Cancer Campaign and the leukemia research it supports at Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

Thanks to all the clubs that support the Ronald McDonald Houses in Greenville and Chapel Hill. Brunch or dinner can be made in the kitchen at the house or brought in to serve about 40 guests staying at either of the houses. Contact me for more information or menu ideas. The RMDH web site has a wish list of many other needs that will benefit the parents and families staying at the house.

The Golden Circle Club has donated a second End of Treatment Bell to Maynard Children's Hospital. This bell is also housed in a miniature light house and stands in the pediatric section of the inpatient treat-

ment floor.

Congratulations to the club for their contribution to the children's improving health and well being.



The Chapel Hill Optimist Club is also arranging the placement of a second End of Treatment Bell to be installed on the pediatric inpatient treatment floor at UNC Lineberger Cancer Hospital. The date for the unveiling ceremony has not been announced.

Thank you to all who help these children and their families. Treatment is expensive and can take years. Simple acts of kindness are always appreciated. Many of these families may also have been displaced by the Matthew flooding. Thank you for your help and support.

Trish Verne
CCC Chairman



A wagon load of school supplies that the Blackbird Optimist Club donated to the teachers and students of J W Parker Middle School in Rocky Mount. Shown in the pictures are Bob League, Blackbird Optimist Club President, and Marie Mullins,

Blackbird Optimist member and teacher at Parker Middle School.

Governors Banquet



Governors Banquet



Governors Banquet



Governors Banquet



Below, Friday night Fun Night activities continue the 50's era with the current rendition of the once popular twist dance.



Relaxing in the Hospitality Room



Remember the Hoola Hoop?



OI Foundation – Patch and Print Awards

Optimist Clubs in NC East District #43	Club #	Total Member Donations	Optimist Clubs in NC East District #43	Club #	Average Donation Per Member
Rocky Mount - Evening	43375	\$2,719.00	North Raleigh	43330	\$124.78
Goldsboro	43195	\$2,523.00	Wilson	43480	\$111.90
Wilson	43480	\$2,350.00	Raleigh - Dinner	43126	\$88.75
Raleigh	43355	\$1,327.00	Rocky Mount - Evening	43375	\$82.39
North Raleigh	43330	\$1,123.00	Chapel Hill	43502	\$58.79
Raleigh - Dinner	43126	\$1,065.00	Goldsboro	43195	\$52.56
Henderson	43215	\$872.00	Wilmington	43475	\$39.47
Whiteville	43472	\$858.00	Southern Wake	43479	\$31.25
Chapel Hill	43502	\$823.00	Rocky Mount - Breakfast	43055	\$29.14
Wilson - Golden Circle	43190	\$780.00	Raleigh	43355	\$23.28
Garner	43185	\$750.00	Whiteville	43472	\$22.58
Wilmington	43475	\$592.00	Roanoke Rapids	43360	\$22.32
South Johnston	43005	\$587.00	Henderson	43215	\$18.55
Wilmington - Cape Fear	43077	\$587.00	Wilson - Golden Circle	43190	\$17.73
Roanoke Rapids	43360	\$558.00	Duplin	43002	\$16.67
Rocky Mount - Breakfast	43055	\$408.00	Garner	43185	\$13.16
Wilmington -Winter Pk	43490	\$396.00	South Johnston	43005	\$12.49
Southern Wake	43479	\$250.00	Wilmington - Cape Fear	43077	\$6.60
Duplin	43002	\$200.00	Wilmington -Winter Pk	43490	\$5.82
Elm City	43514	\$116.00	Greenville	43210	\$4.91
Greenville	43210	\$108.00	Elm City	43514	\$4.46
Bennett - Wilson	43511	\$0.00	Bennett - Wilson	43511	\$0.00
Carteret	43505	\$0.00	Carteret	43505	\$0.00
Chowan - Edenton	43129	\$0.00	Chowan - Edenton	43129	\$0.00
Elizabethtown	43139	\$0.00	Elizabethtown	43139	\$0.00
Greater Spring Lake	43508	\$0.00	Greater Spring Lake	43508	\$0.00
Laurinburg	43245	\$0.00	Laurinburg	43245	\$0.00
Northern Wake	43003	\$0.00	Northern Wake	43003	\$0.00
Roxboro	43380	\$0.00	Roxboro	43380	\$0.00
Tarboro	43435	\$0.00	Tarboro	43435	\$0.00
Wake Forest	43000	\$0.00	Wake Forest	43000	\$0.00
Washington	43461	\$0.00	Washington	43461	\$0.00
Wilmington - Supper	43430	\$0.00	Wilmington - Supper	43430	\$0.00
Wilson - Breakfast	43060	\$0.00	Wilson - Breakfast	43060	\$0.00
		10.00			
		\$18,992.00			\$18.55

Raleigh Optimist presented Christian D. Lawson \$1000 award to Earl Miller.

OI Foundation Continued

Opposite page are the sheets showing the winners for the Optimist International Foundation BBQ rib cookout. Congratulations to the Rocky Mount Evening club for the highest dollars donated at \$2,719.00 and to the North Raleigh club for the most dollars per member at \$124.78 per member. Many thanks to all of you and your clubs that

Many thanks to all the clubs and members that helped make this past year a great year for our district in regards to the OI Foundation. We didn't quite make our goal, but we came in as the fifteenth district in total dollars with a total amount of \$19,246. Our district was number four in dollars per member given. So once again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

I feel that we have a more reasonable goal this year than last year. Our goal for this year is \$20,835. This is a very reachable goal for our district because we have many members that know what the Foundation does. Hopefully, some of the newer people coming in will also be able to see the benefits of the Foundation and help to meet our goal.

Again, we will have the bar-b-que rib cookout for the club donating the most total dollars by the club AND it's members. There will also be a free rib cookout for the club that donates the most dollars per member, based on the donations of the club AND it's members.

In addition to the cookouts, this year we will have a drawing at each of the three district meetings for those members that have joined the Dime-A-Day. The winner of the drawing will get a free registration

for the District Convention. The earlier you join the Dime-A-Day, the more chances you will have to win. All of the names will stay in the box, except for the winner, for the next draw-



donated. Our district donated a total of \$18,992.00 for fifteenth overall in Optimist International and we came in fourth in dollars per member with \$18.30 per member.

Bill Edgerton

OI Foundation Chair

ing. Join early.

I look forward to serving as your District Foundation Rep. and if I can help you in anyway, please let me know. I will be happy to talk with you or your club about the Foundation.



Print & Banner award to Raleigh, J. G. Baker



\$1000 Benefactor Patch, South Johnston, Jerry Medlin



Print & Banner Patch to Chapel Hill, Trish Verne.

District Club Fitness/Club Services Chair



CLUB FITNESS

Just as we can get a little out-of-shape, so can our Optimist clubs. My mission

this year is to encourage and support each club in doing the work necessary to make our clubs perform in tip-top fashion. When our clubs are healthy and alive, we can help more youth in our communities and also become more attractive to potential new members and as an added benefit our members will grow and feel rewarded in doing a good job.

Here are some things that we can all do to help build our clubs into the best they can be.

1. Set Goals and strive to reach them
2. Encourage teamwork within the club and strive to involve all members.
3. Seek opportunities to serve more youth within our communities.
4. Seek support from others when there are problems and work together to solve them, don't let small problems grow into big problems.
5. Strive to complete all necessary paperwork and financial obligations in a timely manner. (Ask for assistance if there are problems or concerns)

My goal during the coming year is to see most of our clubs in the NC East District earn the status of Honor Club and some of our clubs to be Distinguished. If your club starts working to reach these goals at the beginning of the year, it will be easily attainable before next September 30th.

Below is all that is needed to be an "Honor Club."

- (a) Complete three or more service projects each year
- (b) Complete the President's Pride Report and Club Officer-Elect Form
- (c) Recognize a Club member or local community individual
- (d) Grow Club by Net of +3 in membership
- (e) Appoint a Club Foundation Representative and make a non-restricted contribution to the OIF or CCOF
- (f) Conduct a Membership Recruitment/Drive (i. (e) NOW) Program
- (g) Club President or Club President-Elect (or two Designees) attend District Convention (or two other District meetings/conferences)
- (h) Be current on District and OI Dues and Fees

And this is what it will take for your club to be "Distinguished."

- (a) Meet Honor Club Criteria plus one of the following:
- (b) Add Net + 15 in membership OR Build one or more new Clubs OR Increase by Net + 8 and build two or more JOOI Clubs



Let's all start working to make our clubs the best they can be! Please call me if I can help your clubs in any of their "work outs."

Angela Iwaniuk

Club Fitness Chair 2016-2017





COMMUNICATION CONTEST for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL 

2016-2017 COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING (CCDHH)

Topic: *“What the World Gains from
Optimism”*

This contest is designed to offer a chance for young people who are deaf or hard of hearing to present their thoughts on a topic in a public forum. This experience helps to develop the leadership skills and confidence to present in sign or orally to a large audience. The program also provides a valuable opportunity to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. Nearly 500 clubs and 45 districts sponsor this wonderful program each year!

How to Enter: Contestants place entries with their local club by completing an application and winning that club’s nomination for the District Contest.

Applications: Are available from the District CCDHH Chair. However, any one can easily download applications and contest rules from the Optimist International web site at www.optimist.org or the NC East District website at www.nceast-optimist.org.

Eligibility: The contest is open to young people through grade 12 who are recognized by their school as deaf or hard of hearing and are verified as such on the contest entry form. Students interested in participating in the contest must submit the results of an audiogram conducted no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist. Students must be certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more by a qualified audiologist and supported by the audiogram

to be eligible to compete. Students with a lower level of hearing loss should be encouraged to participate in the Optimist Oratorical contest, as opposed to the CCDHH contest. Students attending either public school or schools providing special services are eligible to enter. A student who has won an Optimist International CCDHH scholarship of any kind is not eligible to re-enter this contest.



Topic: For the 2017 contest: **“What the World Gains from Optimism”**

Contest Organization and Prizes: The District contest will be held on April 27, 2017 at the Eastern NC School For The Deaf in Wilson, NC. The presentations are judged in a single contest at the District level. Students may use sign language, an oral presentation or a combination of both to compete. Both styles are judged using the same criteria. The District winner will be presented with a \$2500 scholarship.

Key Dates: The three following documents must be received by the District contest Chair by April 14th, 2017. A copy of the application, a copy of the applicant's proof of age and a typed,

double-spaced copy of the speech.



For more information, contact the District CCDHH Chair:

Angela Iwaniuk (Will)

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
FOURTH QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING
Beach Cove Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, August 27, 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 Secretary/Treasurer
- Judy Harritan Recording Secretary
- 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: Cape Fear; Wilmington; Winter Park
- Zone 2: Whiteville
- Zone 3: Elm City; Goldsboro; Wilson Breakfast; Wilson Golden Circle; Wilson Evening
- Zone 4: Blackbird; Greenville; Roanoke Rapids; Rocky Mount Breakfast; Rocky Mount Evening
- Zone 5: Henderson; Wake Forest
- Zone 6: Chapel Hill; Raleigh; Raleigh Dinner; South Johnston

Governor Allan Ludlum called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Governor Ludlum led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by invocation by Jerry Medlin. Ludlum recognized Past Governors in attendance.

Ludlum recognized Nicole Fontana of the North Myrtle Beach City Council who welcomed the group to North Myrtle Beach.

Next Ludlum recognized Optimist International Representative Deanna Morrow. He reported that OI President Dave Bruns and his wife Shawn would be attending our Governor's Banquet and Ball on Saturday night. President Bruns will install incoming District officers.

Remembrance of District Club members who passed away during the 2015-2016 club year was led by Billy Edgerton. These members were Bill Curry (Wilmington Cape Fear); Eloise Sidelinger (Wilson Golden Circle); Bob Riker (Garner); Myron Staton (Garner); Chuck Kuebler (Wilmington Winter Park); N. W. Quick (Laurinburg); Eloise Register (Wilson Golden Circle); and Carla Wicks (Goldsboro).

Secretary/Treasurer Don Harritan presented the minutes of the 2015-2016 3rd Quarter meeting. Gov. Ludlum reminded the group that only Club Presidents (or designees); Lt. Governors; and Past Governors can make and second a motion. Motion was made by Jim Hart (Governor-Elect) with a second by Raymond Clark (Goldsboro) to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

Harritan presented the 3rd Quarter Financial Report for review. Based on the report, Rich Cash (Raleigh) asked if Jr. Golf was over budget. Harritan responded "no" and explained that golf donations and other funds raised have been sent to the OI Foundation as pass-through funds and as of the end of the 3rd quarter had not yet been returned to the District. They have since been received and the golf funds are in good shape. These funds will be reflected in the 4th quarter Report of Budget. David Hodges (Jr. Golf Chairman) reiterated that most income and expenditures will be in the 4th quarter.

An additional question was asked by Angela Iwanuk about the Miscellaneous Receipts shown for the 1st quarter. Harritan responded that the income was from the auction and 50/50 raffle in the first quarter. He added that the 4th quarter report will include additional miscellaneous income from the car raffle fundraiser currently being conducted.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Gary Pender (Goldsboro) with a second by Ed Taylor (Rocky Mount Evening) to accept the Report of Budget for the 3rd quarter. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Chair Lou Anna Hardee reported the Committee (Hardee, Errol Warren, and Henry Edmondson) have reviewed and approved the 3rd quarter financial report with no problems to report.

Boys and Girls Homes of NC: Chair Gary Pender and BGHNC representative Ray Cockrell reported on the Optimist Cottage and thanked everyone for the contributions and support. Cockrell gave an update on recent new furnishings for the cottage. An Optimist Day for the NC East and NC West Districts is planned for October 29. Cockrell accepted donations from Rocky Mount Evening, South Johnston, Wilson, Roanoke Rapids, Goldsboro, Wilson Golden Circle, Carey Foster, Wayne Sidelinger, Janice and Jimmy Lamm, and Sandy Cyphers. Winners of the BGHNC Golf Tournament held on Thursday were announced and prizes were awarded:

3rd Place: Cape Fear (Curtis Keith's team)

2nd Place: Cape Fear (Auston Pusey's team)

1st Place: Whiteville (Don Harritan's team)

Longest Drive: Jerry Medlin

Closest to Pin: Auston Pusey

Trophies were courtesy of Classic Memories. A total of \$400 was raised for BGHNC.

A&A Awards: Chair Dan Durham recognized the top clubs and zones in the 3rd quarter.

Top 10 Clubs:

#1	Winter Park	#2	Rocky Mount Evening
#3	Golden Circle	#4	Whiteville
#5	Goldsboro	#6	Cape Fear
#7	Garner	#8	Roanoke Rapids
#9	Greenville	#10	Wake Forest

Top Club in Each Zone:

Zone 1 Winter Park

Zone 2 Whiteville

Zone 3 Wilson Golden Circle

Zone 4 Rocky Mount Evening

Zone 5 Northern Wake

Zone 6 Garner

Top Lt. Governors

#3 Jerry Medlin

#2 Phil Best

#1 Lou Anna Hardee

A&A Chair Durham announced the deadline for 4th quarter A & A Reports is October 15.

OI Foundation: Chair Billy Edgerton recognized the Raleigh Club for a \$1,000 donation for a Christian D. Larson Award. Chapel Hill and Raleigh received a banner patch and an OI print. Chairman Edgerton presented Dime-A-Day pins to members who had contributed \$36.50. He discussed the importance of the Foundation, citing the scholarship programs and the moneys given to Johns Hopkins for cancer research. He emphasized the importance of setting club goals for OI Foundation contributions. Currently, this year the NC East District has donated \$4 per member and is #14 in OI. Edgerton reminded the group that banner patches are available to recognize members who have died or to honor a club member. Edgerton accepted additional Dime-A-Day and President's Club donations. [At the end of the meeting,

Edgerton announced that \$4000+ had been raised for the OI Foundation today.]

Membership: Chair Auston Pusey presented gift certificates to members who sponsored new members in the 3rd quarter. He also recognized Don Harritan and Sandy Cyphers for sponsoring 50 or more members during their Optimist careers. Pusey briefly discussed the special membership program for teachers and the Friend of Optimist program. Gov. Ludlum encouraged current members to seek new members for these two special membership categories as well as regular new members.

New Club Building: Chair Angela Iwaniuk reminded members that there is still time to start a new club before the end of this club year. New clubs recently formed are the Blackbird Club and the Mahler Thorp Club. Iwaniuk recognized the following Builders of Excellence: Jim Hart, David Hodges, Linda Shepherd, and Charles Dunn.

OI Convention: Chair Carey Foster reported on a successful 2016 OI Convention in Canada. The 2017 OI Convention will be held July 6-8 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Gov. Ludlum recognized the following who attended the 2016 OI Convention training:

Carol Collier, Sandy Cyphers, Billy Edgerton, Jan Edgerton, Carey Foster, Ellen Foster, Jim Hart, Joyce Leake, Russell Leake, Betty Mosley, Linda Shepherd.

Club Fitness: Chair Lou Anna Hardee reported that the NC East District is #3 in OI with +67 members as of August 27, 2016. She reminded clubs that the deadline for requesting the Presidential Award is August 30. Also, the NC East District has 8 clubs eligible for Honor and maybe Distinguished Club recognition. However, the proper reports must be filed by September 30. Secretary/Treasurer Harritan reminded the clubs to review their FOO lists to make sure any expiring memberships are renewed and postmarked before September 30 or they will be shown as deletions for the current club year. Gov.

Ludlum will review the lists of FOO members and send reminders to individual clubs.

Jr. Golf: Chair David Hodges reported 168 (16-18 year olds) participated in 2016 as a result of the alliance formed with high school coaches, college coaches, U.S. Kids, and PGA Jr. Program. Pre-qualifier events were held in 3 locations and the Mahler Thorp Optimist Club was formed as a sports club to assist with Jr. Golf. For 2017 plans include emphasis on increased participation by girls and a 2-day District tournament. In 2016 three golfers were sent to the OI Tournament in Florida. The NC East 14-15 year-old golfers finished 2nd and 3rd.

Childhood Cancer Campaign: Chair Trish Verne announced the Annual CCC Duck Race will be held today (Saturday, August 27) at 4:00 at the Beach Cove Lazy River. Tom Lamont will announce the race and Yancey Hines will take photographs. Verne reported on recent CCC activities in the District including the presentation of an End-of-Treatment bell to Connie Maynard Children's Hospital in Greenville, collection of pop-top tabs which are recycled to help with Ronald McDonald House expenses, club visits to Camp Kaleidoscope (a camp for youth who have had life threatening illnesses), and preparation of Ronald McDonald House meals by clubs. CCC donations from clubs were presented to Verne.

PGI: Chair Sandy Cyphers encouraged members to wear their PGI pins and to work on achieving Level 10. She recognized recent Level 10 recipient Billy Edgerton

Leadership Development: Chair Sandy Cyphers announced a one-hour workshop will be held at the 2017 second and third District meetings and encouraged everyone to attend. She requested that members send her any suggestions for workshop topics. She reminded members of today's workshops following the general meeting: 1:00 OI Representative Deanna Morrow on OI updates; 1:45 Time Manage-

ment; and 1:45 Homeless Teens. Cyphers also requested input from members on ways to increase Convention attendance.

Optimist International Representative Deanna Morrow brought greetings from OI and reminded members that OI President Dave Bruns would be attending the NC East Governor's Banquet tonight. Morrow praised the NC East District for its efforts in 2015-2016 which include 2 new clubs and +66 members. The District has 37 clubs with 1,118 members and is the #3 club in OI as of 8-27-2016. Morrow said that achieving club fitness requires consistency, excitement, and fun. She complimented Lou Anna Hardee on her outstanding efforts as Club Fitness Chair and the District on its training, meetings, and other efforts. She challenged each member to live the Optimist Creed. Morrow complimented Gov. Ludlum on such a successful year and challenged Governor-Elect Hart to have a successful year.

Club Fitness: Chair Lou Anna Hardee recognized Gov. Ludlum, Sec/Treas. Harritan, and Membership Chair Auston Pusey for their efforts this club year. She challenged each person in attendance to get a

FOO member before the end of this club year.

Governor-Elect: Jim Hart reminded everyone that they should "just ask" to get new members and to let people know why you are involved. He asked each member to make a commitment to sponsor at least 1 new member in the next club year. Hart said that it is important to look at member retention and determine why your club loses members.

In closing remarks, Gov. Ludlum reminded members of the new membership incentive for teachers.

He said he would love to see 100% of clubs achieve

Honor Club status for 2016-2017.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 with the Optimist Creed.

Don Harritan, Secretary/Treasurer

Judy Harritan, Recording Secretary



Wilson Golden Circle Elects and Installs New Officers



Seated Left to Right - Angela Iwaniuk, Treasurer- Sara Robbins, 1st VP - Kathy Sandifer, President - Isabelle Flock, 2nd VP - Norma Duell, Secretary. Standing: Carol Collier, Linda Mizelle, Joy Belle Finch, Janice Lamm, Board Members - Betsy Winborne, Chaplain -Celia Wise Sgt at Arms - Diane Johnson, OI Representative and Linda Watson, Board Member



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.

NCE Bulletin

Issued Quarterly: Oct., Jan., Apr., Aug.

Published by Wayne Sidelinger

Bulletin Editor.

1104 Windemere Dr. NW,

Wilson, NC 27896

Tel Day 252-237-6778

Fax 252-243-3502

Cell 252-290-2858

Email wsidelinger@nc.rr.com

NCE Web

www.nceast-optimist.org

OI Web

www.optimist.org

