

North Carolina East Optimist News

Welcome to a New Year:

By now all the Christmas has been put away, all the New Years resolutions have been broken, the election is a done deal no matter what side you

came down on, now we are ready to get down to the business of helping the children of North Carolina East District.

Our second quarter district meeting will be at the First Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, North Carolina on March 04, 2017. The physical address is 200 South Church St., located in downtown Rocky Mount across from the Rocky Mount Police Station, and City Hall complex. Park in the parking lot, and look for the signs leading you to the fellowship hall. The District's general membership meeting will start at 9:00am. Lunch will be served on site around 12:30 - 12:45pm, with snacks available during the mid-



morning break. We should finish up between 2:00pm - 3:00pm. Download and print your registration from the District web-site, and get them into Carol Collier soon.

While you are in Rocky Mount, we will be staying at the Country Inns and Suites, 672 English Road, Rocky Mount, NC.

Time is getting short to make your room reservations, so don't get left out of the Optimist Club rate that has been agreed upon.

I had the pleasure and opportunity to attend the Mid-



Winter Conference in Winston-Salem this month. Our International President, Jim Kondrasuk was present, along with some of the key senior administration staff from Optimist International in St. Louis. This two day conference was attended by Governors, Lt. Governors, and Club Presidents from such far away states as Florida, Colorado, Minnesota, as well as North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

There was some new information shared about the different levels of Club recognition. You will hear more about this later. President Kondrasuk has proclaimed 2017 to be the year of the Honor Club. Honor Club requirements have changed somewhat for this year, but this is the basic building block of achievement that all our clubs should strive for. We will discuss the Club Recognition and Awards program in depth at the Second Quarter District meeting.

By now, you will have heard about the new JOI Youth Club that has been chartered in Wilson by the Golden Circle Optimist Club. I had the opportunity to attend the Chartering of this new Club, and what a pleasure it was to meet and have conversation with these energetic, and vigorous young Optimist International youth volunteers. I wish I could bottle the energy these young people have and issue it to some of the more senior members of our district. I would stand in line, as much as I hate doing that, for a full

gallon of their energy.

A very sincere Well Done to the members of the Golden Circle club who have had their hands in the chartering of this club. For more information on how your club can sponsor a JOI Club, contact Sandy Cyphers who is the District's JOI chairperson. She will be happy to assist and advise you.

It is my pleasure to announce that we now have a Lt. Governor for Zone 6. He is JG (Jimmie Gray) Baker. He is the current 1st VP of the Optimist Club of Raleigh. His cell # is 919.650.9010. You will have the chance to meet him and offer him your hand in congratulations at the second quarter district meeting. An enormous thank you goes out to David Fritz for finding this new Lt Gov. for our District. Well Done David.

Drive carefully please remember that you, the members of North Carolina East District, are very important people . Don't gamble with your life and with the lives of the people with you, just to save 8 - 10 minutes on your trip. The funeral homes don't need you, but we do.

"YES YOU CAN - YES WE WILL"

Jim Hart

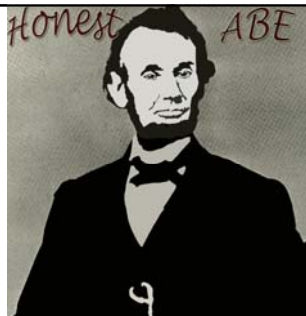
Governor, NC East

2016 - 2017 North Carolina East District



Thanks to Wesley Ferrell, Wilson Evening and Sandy Cyphers, Wilmington, for taking pictures and recording events at October meeting.

Most text and pictures in this issue are from them.



Vikings JOI Club at Elm City Middle School



JOI club members from left: Seated, Morgan Harold, Senior citizen, seated, Yusra Abdelaziz, standing, senior, citizen and Anna Grissom, standing.

In December, club members visited Elm City Assisted Living for Project Sunshine for Seniors. They played bingo with the residents and made Christmas cards to share with them as well.

In October, the club sponsored a Compliment Campaign to participate in Anti-Bullying Awareness Week. Candy was offered to students who filled out a blue ribbon for one or more of their classmates and/or school staff with a compliment. Ribbons were posted in the hallway and everyone was encouraged by receiving positive comments.

PGI

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.

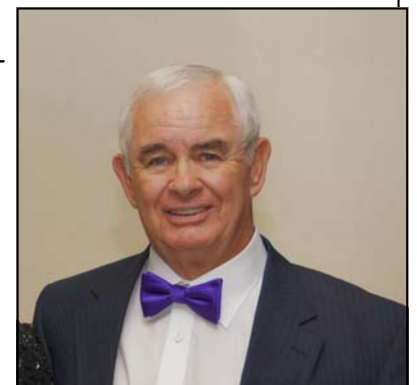
Gives each Member personal responsibility for his/her involvement in the Club's activities. Offers personal growth opportunities to each Member.

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



District Convention 2016-2017

Beach Cove Resort, Myrtle Beach SC. September 7-10, 2017



What do you get when you mix a group of spirited Optimists, the sun, surf and glitter of Myrtle Beach?

A fun filled four days of NCED Optimists coming together celebrating the accomplishments of the past year and preparing through training our latest club and district leaders.

We have all heard the comments from previous con-

vention goes... it's always the same, never enough time to enjoy the beach, too many meetings and on and on. Between now and September the Convention Committee will be working hard to deliver a fun filled weekend with just a little Optimist training and Optimist business thrown in.

I am excited to report that the 2017 NCED Summer Conference will be held September 7th thru the 10th at the Beach Cove Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Thanks to Sandy Cyphers for negotiating a terrific deal with Beach Cove. Room rates will be the same as last year and our meeting space is free. Way to go Sandy!

If you have never been to a Summer Conference or if even this is your 35th time, I can assure you that the time you put in our Conference will be well spent. However the success of our Conference will be measured by how much you take back to your clubs.

District Membership

Greetings fellow Optimists. I know I'm supposed to be the author of some inspiring words to make you want to go out and set the world on fire recruiting new members, but bringing in new members must start with you. You have to feel the need to increase the size of your club and this will equate into helping more children.

Unfortunately, our District is in an unfamiliar position in the international rankings. We are minus 53 members and ranked 44th out of a possible 49 Districts. We brought in 46 new members during our 4th quarter last year and only 20 during our 1st quarter for our current year. Our trend is heading in the wrong direction. The children need your help!

This is a perfect time of year to introduce your optimist club to potential new members, especially those of you who have ball programs. ALL parents and coaches are potential new members. Just ask. I think you'll be surprised at the responses you get.

I have at my disposal several Wal-Mart \$10 gift cards



and would love to add your name to receive them. Remember, a FOO (Friend of Optimist) counts the same as a regular club member. The 30 for 30 program is still in place, so let's get the young people involved.

Continue asking.....

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



Auston Pusey, Membership Chair

Our Summer Conference is a great time to relax, enjoy fellowship with other Optimists, play golf in the Boys and Girls Home tournament, Childhood Cancer Duck Race and attend the Governors Ball and so much more. It will be four days of surprises, fun and an opportunity to recharge, regenerate and reinvigorate our enthusiasm for our work with youth. Make plans to attend now. Visit nceast-optimist.org for registration information. Cutoff date for early regis-



tration is August 7th.

Watch your email for announcements of all our activities planned for our Summer Conference!

Errol Warren,
Convention Chair



Optimist International Convention

Albuquerque, NM

July 6 to 8, 2017



Light Shows Daily



It is time to start preparing for the convention in Albuquerque NM. If you are interested in the sites to see, you can order a visitors guide and vacation planner at 800-284-2282 or at www.itsatrip.org.

The Official Website for Albuquerque New Mexico Tourism Visit Albuquerque www.itsatrip.org Start planning your Albuquerque vacation! Find information on Albuquerque attractions, shopping & dining, browse maps, order a guide and more.

You can also get information on the optimist web site www.optimist.org

Have a Great Day!

Carey Foster

OI Convention

Ambassador





OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
ESSAY
CONTEST

Hope all has gone well for all the clubs in their Essay Contests. Were you able to reach out to some new possible students ?

The topic "**Chasing Optimism In The Face Of Challenges**" was a great topic for todays times. The quality of essays submitted should be excellent. Please make sure you have judged and submitted your winner to David Bast---297 Travel Lite Dr.--Raleigh 27603 mailed by no later than Feb.28. Don't forget application form and birth certificate and that it has

been typed double space with cover sheet.

David Bast Salon and Spa Solutions

297 Travel Lite Drive
Raleigh, NC 27603

919-772-1296



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
ORATORICAL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The District Oratorical Contest will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at First Baptist Church in Goldsboro, NC.

This year's topic: "**What the World Gains from Optimism**"

Each Zone is eligible to submit two winning contestants to the District level Contest, and two \$2500 scholarships will be awarded to the two top winners in the District.

The deadline to submit applications to the District is April 30, 2017. Please send the following information:

District Entry Form; Student Application; Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport; Printed copy of speech; Copy of Student Evaluation.

Please send all applications to:

Angela Iwaniuk (Will) (Acting Oratorical Chair)

10861 McKenzie Rd, Bailey, NC 27807

Cell: 252-289-5050 Email: ncangel49@aol.com



JOI

Jr. Optimist International

Building a Youth Club



One of the great legacies of an Optimist leader is to create something that will last for years to come. An example would be to create a successful JOI (Junior Optimist International) Youth Club in your community. Optimist International and JOI as an organization are in business to directly affect the young people in various communities. Let's build Optimist Clubs, and let's build Youth Clubs.

Creating a new Youth Club is **NOT** difficult. JOI has a wonderful product to sell to our youth, and if we do the due diligence of preparation, the young people will come. They want to serve. They want to lead. They want to have fun. Here are five simple steps to help you get started:

- 1. Gain Club support.** Make sure Youth Clubs are explained to Club Members and most everyone in the Optimist Club are on board. This certainly doesn't mean that all Members take part in the Youth Club, but they understand the benefits to the community kids.
- 2. Find a JOI liaison from the Club.** Think about events where young people were present. Determine which Club Members were approaching the young people and creating conversations. Those are the people to choose to best work with the Youth Club.
- 3. Gain support from the schools, churches or other civic associations.** It's always best to enlist the help of others!
- 4. Acquire lists of candidates.** Potential Youth Club members can come from schools, churches, Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts, school bands, sport teams Oratorical or Essay contests, etc. You can contact students through other community organizations.
- 5. The Result?** You are 100% ready to start your Youth Club. when your youth, your Club, and your community are excited about the exciting new endeavor.

This is a simplified list of what it takes to get started. Optimist International has many publications with details and tips for success. The key is to get started!

*****THE FIRST TWO CLUBS BUILT IN THE DISTRICT WILL RECEIVE \$200.00****

Contact me if your club is interested and I will assist you in the process

Sandy Cyphers
910-367-3295
scyphers@ec.rr.com





News from Boys and Girls Homes of NC

There are currently 5 boys in your Optimist Cottage.

B&GH is serving approximately 300 children.

48 on campus population.

187 in Family Foster Care and Therapeutic Foster Care.

66 Day Students in Flemington Academy – 114 total school enrolment.

Cottage always needs your help.

Stop by my display to see a complete campus needs list.

Or

See Ray Cockrell or Gary Pender for a complete needs list..

Flemington Academy Charter School.

Kicked off our 4th year of operation on August 15th.

11 Graduates received their High School diplomas in June.

There are approximately 114 students enrolled at Flemington Academy.

This total includes 66 day students from the surrounding community.



Gary Pender,
District B&G Chair

Summer Activities a great success.

World of work, educational opportunities and fun activities have kept our residents busy this summer.

For the Love of Kids Capital Campaign

A campaign to make futures brighter for our children.

Be thinking about how you and your club can get involved.

9 specific projects to improve our campus and enable us to better serve the



children in our care.
See Ray Cockrell for more details.

When was the last time you had a speaker from Boys & Girls Home?

We would love to come and bring your club up to date.

Contact;

Gary Pender 919-920-9190

Ray Cockrell 910-646-3083

Gary Greene 910-646-3083



Ray Cockrell, B&G Home

Consider hosting a dinner party or reception as a fundraiser.

B&GH will provide a video, promotional material and a representative to work with you during the event.

Optimist Century Club Sponsorships are still available.

Optimist Make A difference Thank You

MISSION

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. is dedicated to providing a comprehensive array of residential and community-based services to meet the needs of vulnerable children by addressing their physical, emotional, social, educational and spiritual development.

CORE VALUES

Trust is the cornerstone at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, directing relationships with the children, their families, staff and constituents. It is comprised of five key elements.

1. *Safety* – a commitment to provide a safe and positive environment where children heal and flourish
2. *Respect* – for all humans and their place in society
3. *Empathy* – to understand and share experiences, values and principles
4. *Genuineness* – which provides integrity to relationships
5. *Concreteness* – ensure equal and accurate information

Effective residential and community based service programs provide safe, caring places for children and adolescents and are staffed by men and women who share a commonality in their philosophy of care and treatment, in their personal and moral convictions and embrace fundamental Judeo/Christian principles.

A&A Club Winners 4th Quarter

Top Ten Clubs 2015-16



From left: No. 1, Golden Circle, Linda Shepherd; No. 2 Whiteville, Don Harritan; No. 3, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; No. 4, Roanoke Rapids, Carey Foster; No. 5 Wilmington Cape Fear, Phil Best.



From Left: No 6, Henderson, Jerry Eldridge; No. 7, Wake Forest, No Recipient; No. 8, Chowan-Edenton, No recipient; No. 9, Chapel Hill, Gary Pender; No. 10, Garner, Jerry Medlin.

Top 3 Lt. Governors, 4th Quarter 2015-2016



From Left: No. 1, Zone 4 Lt. Gov. LouAnna Hardee; No 2, Zone 5 Lt. Gov. Gary Pender; No. 3, Zone 3 Lt. Gov. Brenda Farmer.

A&A Zone Winners 4th Quarter 2015-2016



From Left: Zone 1, Wilmington Cape Fear, Phil Best; Zone 2, Whiteville, Don Harritan; Zone 3, Wilson Golden Circle, Linda Shepherd; Zone 4, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler; Zone 5, Henderson, Jerry Eldridge; Zone 6, Garner, No recipient.

District A&A

The A&A program was successful for the 1st quarter. over 15 clubs participated. I look forward for 20 or more club to participate during the 2nd quarter. The A&A awards program is an excellent program to show the clubs in the District what Optimist, sports, and educational programs your club is providing for the youth in your community. Many clubs have used the programs you have provided after seeing the program may be useful or provide a great opportunity in their community. The form being used for this year will not change. During the year the form is on the District web site and can be down loaded in several formats. Please consider using the A&A program for this year. Each quarter the top ten clubs are provided with a awards certificate . The number one club in each zone receives an

awards certificate . All clubs that participate and are not included in the top ten will be presented with a certificate of participation. The top three Lt. Governor are presented an awards certificate each quarter. During the second quarter awards luncheon, 2015-2016 awards certificates are provided to the top three clubs for the year and the number one Lt. Governor.

Thanks for your clubs participation.

Dan Durham,
A&A Chair



Dan Durham, NCE
District A&A Chair

Hello Optimists,

I am so honored to represent the North Carolina East District as I prepare to serve as the Vice-President for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Optimist International. In this position, I will strive to do my best and keep you informed of upcoming news and challenges. While attending the Vice-President and Governor-Elect Training held in St. Louis during November and January, I have some "heads up" to share.

Effective October 1, 2017, there will be a new logo for Optimist International. Information containing templates are being distributed to all district governors and secretary-treasurers and each club and district should plan not to get rid of those items bearing the older logo but begin using the new logo on all letterhead, new banners, and other future items.

Growth will be the "FOCUS" for all regions so new clubs will need to be formed and new members recruited. Optimist International is dedicated to having 100,000 members by OI's 100th Anniversary in 2018. OI Teams will be made available to each region and district to assist district new club building, membership, and club fitness chairs with this challenge.

Per OI President Jim Kondrasuk in the February 2017 Hotline –

We have committed to "The Year of the Honor Club." Obtaining Honor Club status will keep our Clubs healthy, active, and fun. All Clubs should make every effort to achieve that status. Honor Club should be the minimum level of service for any Optimist Club.

A new initiative is underway to help our existing Club base: the Social, Service and Young Professionals Group. The Social, Service and Young Professionals Group is a "Club within a Club" concept. This group of Members would be Members of your Club,

volunteer for your projects, and show on your roster. Check with your Governor, Lieutenant Governor or Vice President if you have questions. As an added bonus, Club, Zone and District are awarded new Club building credit if 15 Members are added. We have a couple of clubs already pursuing a "Club within a Club;" I will be happy to speak with you about this for your club.

Every Optimist has received an email about sponsoring new Members. It is hard to believe, but about 80% of our existing membership base has never sponsored a new Member. Here is your opportunity to add a friend, family member, or co-worker to your Club. A special drawing will take place during each of the three remaining quarters of the 2016-17 Optimist Year. Recruit a new Member for a chance to win \$500!

Please keep in mind the District and OI Incentives as your clubs/district strives to be Honor and/or Distinguished. Review the incentives and be aware of the many tools available to accomplish your goals and objectives.

I would like to see the North Carolina East District regain its # 1 status in OI and most of all--be the flagship for the Mid-Atlantic Region. All governor-elects in the Mid-Atlantic Region have indicated that their district will be a distinguished district and I want NC East to be among them as distinguished. Can we do it; will we do it? Only you can answer that challenge and I know that "Together, We Can!" Why, because we did it once and we can do it again.

Yours in Optimism,

Lou Anna Hardee
Vice-President Elect
Mid-Atlantic Region,
Optimist International



New Club Building



New Clubs 2015-2016 Receiving Banners: From Left: Mahleer Thorpe Sports Club, David Hodges; Wolfpack Club, Al Ludlum; Blackbird Club, Angela Iwaniuck and Linda Shepherd.

District Chair New Club Building. Sara Robbins 252-373-5406. Our challenge from OI is Build New Clubs and the hottest buzz is Club within a Club. This innovative idea may be the best thing that could happen to those of us who are "young at heart" but waning in stamina! The younger Optimist wants to participate in community projects but few are willing to commit to the rigors of "Club" meetings and rules. Club within a Club meets that criteria. Use of the different Social Media accounts are also new ideas for new types of clubs. If we want to continue Optimist Clubs we must be willing to investigate and use social media. If you have questions concerning building new Clubs please call me. I may not know the answer but I will find an answer for you. Build Clubs!!!!

Sara Robbins, District NCB Chair



Sara Robbins, District NCB Chair.

Childhood Cancer Campaign



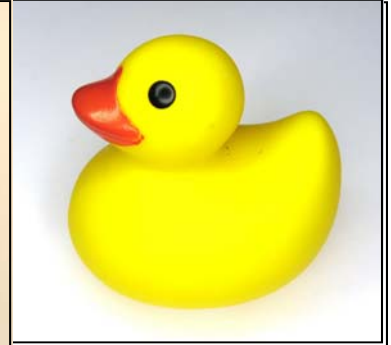
After months of preparation, the second End of Treatment Bell has been installed at the UNC Children's Hospital. This bell

is on the pediatric oncology treatment floor. Thanks to the Chapel Hill Optimist Club for this gift to the children and their families to celebrate a momentous milestone in the treatment of childhood cancer. This is the third bell that the club has donated to Duke and UNC Hospitals.

Congratulations to the Golden Circle Optimist Club on the completion of their End of Treatment Bell Project. Optimist International cited it as an example of a new project grant that clubs can apply for. Also check out Angela Iwaniuk's video on Facebook of the delivery and set up of the End of Treatment Bell that was installed at Maynard Children's Hospital.

Have you seen the internet video of the six year old boy ringing the bell again and again celebrating the end of his chemotherapy treatments? If not, contact me and I will send you the link. I especially enjoyed seeing him in his Superman tee shirt.

Katie and Andrew at Wonder Connection have posted pictures of the newly completed Hippoie Creek Project. On January 18th Taylor Morrison had the honor of cutting the ribbons on this newest innovation that enables hospitalized children to experience



the wonders of nature. This "creek" is on a portable cart that fits right over a patients' bed. Kids can enjoy the outdoors without the worry of infection. It features running water, mini waterfalls, rocks and sand with various plants

and fauna toys. For more pictures and information, check out the web site at www.wonderconnection.org. Katie and Andrew and their assistants bring science projects to the pediatric patients at Duke and UNC Hospitals. They receive donations and support from the NC Botanical Gardens at Chapel Hill and other organizations.

Is your club planning a Childhood Cancer fundraiser? Do you need supplies such as smocks, canisters, or candy Kisses? If so, please contact me. I can help you get started.



Remember that June is Optimist International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Start planning now.

Thanks for all you do for the kids. They are our future.

Trish Verne, District Chairman, Childhood Cancer Campaign, pverne43@gmail.com or call 919-942-4144



2nd Quarter Bulletin Junior Golf Report

NC East District #1 in Optimist Golf

Our 2017 Junior Golf OPTIMIST Qualifiers should prove to be our best ever. I'll spare you of all the background information as to how Optimist International got involved with junior golf, and how this program has truly become Optimist International's signature project. I've reported to you in the last few months how NC East has become the premier District in the world in our Optimist Junior Golf program. I recently provided our District's club officers with lots of Optimist junior golf information concerning our qualifying golf tournaments and how to get kids in your communities involved in Optimist Golf.

Over the years that I have been involved with working with our young golfers, I have found one fact that cannot be ignored. Young people who play golf are some of the brightest, respectful and appreciative kids that you will ever encounter. These young people are passionate about the game of golf and have positive attitudes beyond belief. Optimism prevails with this group of young athletes.

In the past Optimist Districts held a golf tournament for young golfers with the best who met certain scoring criteria advancing to the Opti-

mist International Junior Golf Championships. Over the past few years there have been several nuances in the makeup of Optimist qualifying tournaments and the significance of Optimist Golf to our organization. Many districts have had significant decreases in the number of participants in their District Qualifiers. Optimist International created the "Optimist Tour" which provided another avenue through which young golfers could qualify for THE OPTIMIST. Many districts aligned themselves with other junior golf organizations like the PGA Junior program and various other independent "golf tours".

We will offer four qualifiers to better serve the young golfers in our district. This year NC East is partnering with two of the best junior golf tours. The North Carolina Junior Golf Foundation is a well-run junior golf organization that features some of the region's best boy golfers from 12 to 18 years old. The Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour is the largest girl's tour in the United States. We are honored to be able to work with these fine organizations to bring Optimist Golf to hundreds of young golfers. We also will feature a "traditional" 18-hole District Qualifier where both boy and girl golfers in all seven of Optimist International's age divisions are encouraged to participate. We will not just have the most junior golfers playing in our qualifiers than any of Optimist International's Districts; we will have the best fields of golfers anywhere. Our tournament schedule is provided below.

I hope that all NC East District clubs will assist the young golfers of their communities in learning about Optimist Golf and how they can participate in one of the world's best junior golf events. I encourage our clubs and Optimist members to let me be of assistance in making

sure your area's kids are served. Your club can support NC East Optimist Junior Golf through sponsoring golfers and making financial contributions to help pay the expenses to operate our tournaments. You can also serve these kids by helping out and volunteering to work at one of our tournaments.

Please contact me at 252-908-3034 or at dhodgesoptimist@gmail.com if I can assist you or your club in any way.

I feel that The Optimist Creed applies to golf better than to any other sport. Optimist members may have their favorite tenant of the Creed, but what really stand out to me as it applies to an "individual" sport like golf as opposed to a team sport such as basketball are the first two words of the Creed. It's "Promise yourself" and not "Promise yourselves". Optimism is a concept for the "individual". In keeping with our Creed, I like to tell our junior golfers this. "Like in life, the most important shot that you will have is your next one".

NC East is not just about bringing out the best in kids. NC East is about bringing the best kids out.

NC East District 2017 Qualifier Schedule

March 4 and 5, UNC Finley Golf Course,
Chapel Hill, NC.

Boys 12-13, Boys 14-15, Boys 16-18.

March 11 and 12, UNC Finley Golf Course,
Chapel Hill, NC.

Girls 15-18.

April 22 and 23 Greenville Country Club,
Greenville, NC

Girls 10-12, Girls 13-14, Girls 15-18.

May 20 Belmont Lake Golf Club, Rocky
Mount, NC

All Boys and Girls age divisions.

Best regards to you
and your club.

David Hodges
Chairman, NC East
District Optimist
Junior Golf



OI Foundation

Print & Banner Awards



South Johnston, Mickey Bast



Garner, Jerry Medlin



Wilson Evening, Jimmy Lamm

Christian D. Larson Awards



Wilson, Jimmy Lamm. Recipients,
Marvin Register, Doug Lamm



Goldsboro, Gary Pender



Raleigh Dinner, Carlton Baird.
Recipient, Jimmy Keith

Once again, I am serving as the OI Foundation Rep. for our district. The motto of the Foundation is "Helping Optimist Help Kids". Most of you know how much the Foundation does for our district. Among the things the Foundation provides are the full scholarship funds for the Essay and both Oratorical Contests and they also help fund all of the information the clubs get from Optimist International.

Let me thank each of you and your clubs for what you have done in the past to help support our efforts toward the Foundation. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Our district is usually in the top ten in Op-

OI Foundation Continued

Lifetime Donation – Bronze



Billy and Jan Edgerton

President's Club



Gov. Jim Hart

timist International and this would certainly not be possible without your help.

Please consider making your donation at our March meeting coming up March 4th. Also please encourage your clubs to make their donations. Sandy Cyphers has asked me help her add ten more people to the Women's Philanthropy Council. That takes a \$100 donation. You get the little purse pin when you join. If you have already joined the Dime-A-Day, you only need to donate \$63.50 more to reach the \$100. All unrestricted donations to the Foundation are cumulative. Please help me help Sandy reach her goal.

You may already have heard which two clubs won the Bar-B-Que ribs for our contest last year. In case you haven't, The Rocky Mount Evening Club won for the most dollars given at \$2,719. and the North Raleigh Club won for the most dollars per member at \$124.78. Congratulations to both of these clubs and to their Club Foundation Reps.

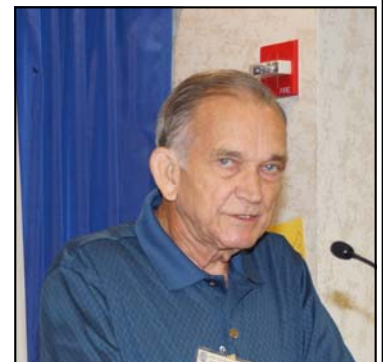
We plan to have the same contest for the current year plus at each district meeting we will have a drawing from all the members that have joined the Dime-A-Day. The member whose name is drawn will have his/her registration paid to the District Convention.

The sooner you join, the more chances you have to win the registration. The winner at our October meeting was Kathy Creech Sandifer from the Wilson Golden Circle Club. Congratulations to Kathy for winning the registration to the Convention.

Again, many, many thanks for all you do to help the Foundation.

Optimistically yours,

Bill Edgerton



District Club Fitness/Club Services Chair



We are getting close to the half-way mark for our Optimist year and our clubs are looking pretty good. Most of the clubs in our District

are paying their OI and District dues in a very timely manner and we appreciate that! I have also learned of several wonderful service projects all across eastern NC that you, in the NC East clubs are performing and that is what we are all about. Way to go!

However, we still have much room for improvement in order to become more “fit”. We have lost about 50 members since October and each club needs to make efforts to increase their membership at every opportunity. It is hard for me to understand how anyone would not want to be a part of our wonderful organization, so let’s “Just Ask” them! And we should never forget our existing members and appreciate all the dedica-

tion, work and loyalty they have given to our clubs. I challenge each club to keep their



current members and to add at least one new member in the next 3 months. We can do a lot if we all work toward the same goal.

Every Club has its ups and downs, celebrations and struggles. It is human nature when a group of individuals work together to undergo times of “storming”. There will likely always be personal-ity conflicts. If we allow a negative atmosphere to prevail for too long then our clubs, its members and ultimately the community will suffer. We put effort into recruiting new members and

we need to put equal effort into retaining members as well. Club Fitness offers a structured, annual program to share within our Clubs which focuses on resolving issues and rewarding and celebrating accomplishments which will strengthen our membership and allow everyone to feel they have a voice and an influence.

I recommend the following goals for all of our clubs in the NC East district during the next three months:

1. Appreciate existing members
2. Ask, Ask, Ask everyone you know or see who is not in an Optimist club already. Let’s share the great opportunity of being Optimists with others – plus it will help us serve more youth!
3. Forgive club members for mistakes of the past and begin to rebuild any broken relationships.
4. Remember to have FUN while you are doing all the your good deeds in your community!
5. Elect your new President, Secretary-Treasurer and OI Foundation Rep. and report these officers no later than May 20 to Optimist International so that they will start get-



(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

ting information on training and changes in any policies.

6. Look for opportunities to build new clubs or build “clubs within a club”.

**I support
you!**

Angela Iwaniuk

Club Fitness Chair 2016-2017

Cell Phone (252) 289-5050



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
RESPECT
FOR LAW



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
**COMMUNICATION
CONTEST**
FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Upcoming event – Thursday Night – April 27th
2016-2017 COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST FOR THE DEAF &
HARD OF HEARING (CCDHH)

Topic: “What the World Gains from Optimism”

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.

For more information, contact the District CCDHH Chair:
Angela Iwaniuk (Will)
10861 McKenzie Rd, Bailey, NC
27807

Res.: 252-235-2468 Cell: 252-289-5050

Email: ncangel49@aol.com



WELCOME TO THE RALPH L. FIKE JOI CLUB

The Charter Banquet and Officer Installation ceremony for the Fike JOI Club was held on February 16th at the Golden Circle Meeting. Kim Newkirk. These young folks have already begun their first project which is a book drive and their goal is to collect 400 books for youth of Wilson County.



Pictured above with 10 of the JOI club's charter members are Kathy Sandifer, President of Golden Circle; Isabelle Flock, VP of Golden Circle; NC East District Governor Jim Hart; Club Advisor Sara Robbins, and Fike Asst. Principal .



NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
 FIRST QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING
 Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina
 Lake Waccamaw, NC
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

Jim Hart, Governor

TBA Governor-Elect

Allan Ludlum, Immediate Past Governor

Carol Collier, District Secretary/Treasurer

Don Harritan, Past District Secretary/Treasurer

Phil Best, Zone 1 Lt. Governor

Ron Riggins, Zone 2 Lt. Governor

Linda Shepherd, Zone 3 Lt. Governor

The following clubs were represented:

Zone 1: Wilmington; Wilmington Winter Park

Zone 2: Whiteville

Zone 3: Wilson Golden Circle; Goldsboro; Wilson Evening

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

Zone 5: Henderson

Zone 6: Raleigh Dinner; South Johnston

Forty members were in attendance at the meeting.

Governor Jim Hart called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Gary Pender led in the reciting of the

Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Billy Edgerton.

Governor Hart welcomed everyone and recognized first-time attendees and the Past Governors who were present.

Past District Secretary/Treasurer Don Harritan presented the minutes of the 2015-2016 4th Quarter Meeting. Motion was made by Gary Pender (Goldsboro Club) with a second by Jimmy Lamm (Wilson Evening) to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

Harritan presented the 4th Quarter Financial Report. Motion was made by Gary Pender (Goldsboro Club) with a second by Carlton Baird (Raleigh Dinner Club) to accept the financial report. Motion was approved.

Don Harritan thanked Past Governor Allan Ludlum for allowing him to serve as the District Secretary/Treasurer for the 2015 - 2016 physical year. 2

Governor Hart thanked Allan Ludlum and Don Harritan for their leadership efforts in 2015-2016.

Finance Committee Chairman Jerry Medlin presented the 2016-2017 District Budget for approval. Motion to accept the budget was made by Gary Pender (Goldsboro Club) with a second by Phil Best (Wilmington).

Medlin reported that the District Financial Review Committee will conduct a quarterly review of Dis-

trict Finances.

Committee Reports:

□ Bulletin: We discussed whether we wanted to continue printing the bulletin for distribution at the meetings. Angela Iwaniuk agreed to email the bulletin to the Lt. Governors and allow them to distribute at their discretion. This would save \$850 in paper and \$650 in toner

□ Candidate Qualifications: Governor Hart reported that he was pleased with the energy from the attendees at the Friday night auction for OI Foundation and the Boys and Girls Homes. We are still seeking a Governor-elect for 2017 - 2018

□ A&A Awards: Chairman Dan Durham presented 1st quarter awards:

□ Top 10 Clubs (#10 Garner; #9 Chapel Hill; #8 Chowan-Edenton #7 Wake Forest; #6 Henderson; #5 Wilmington-Cape Fear; #4 Roanoke-Rapids; #3 Rocky Mt. Evening; #2 Whiteville; #1 Golden Circle

□ Top Club in each Zone (1 - Wilmington Cape Fear; 2 - Whiteville; 3 - Wilson Golden Circle; 4 - Rocky Mt. Evening; 5 - Henderson; 6 - Garner

□ Participation Awards (22 clubs participated in A&A)

□ Lt. Governor Awards (#1- Lou Anna Hardee; #2- Gary Pender; #3- Brenda Farmer)

□ Membership: Al Ludlum presented gift cards to members who sponsored new members. Membership incentives will continue for 2016-2017. Ludlum reviewed incentives from OI and the District.

□ Childhood Cancer: Chairman Trish Verne was not in attendance. Governor Jim Hart did an alter call for donations

□ Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina: Chairman Gary Pender. Successful auction on Friday night, thanks to Rich Cash, Carlton Baird, and Billy Edgerton

□ Ray Cockrell showed a video of what was happening at the Boys and Girls home, while Gary Pender

narrated. Ray reminded us of what the boys in our cottage had experienced in their life and how far they had come. He emphasized how much of an impact we have and how we make a difference in their lives.

□ The Boys and Girls Home provided hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch

□ OI Foundation: Chairman Billy Edgerton discussed Friday night auction (\$891 raised with 1/2 to OI Foundation and 1/2 to BGHNC); Edgerton passed out awards, which consisted of pictures and banner patches to the clubs that donated at least \$1000 (the Wilson Evening Club donated \$2000). Governor Hart encouraged participation in Dime-A-Day and President's Programs; OI Foundation donations from clubs and individuals were accepted during alter call

□ Sandy Cyphers presented the Women's Philanthropy awards. Those that donated were entered into a drawing for one free night at the District Convention in Myrtle Beach. Wayne Sidelinger was the winner.

□ CCDHH: Chairman Angela Iwaniuk asked clubs to make local schools aware of the CCDHH contest on April 27, 2017 at NC School for the Deaf in Wilson.

□ New Club Building: Al Ludlum filled in for Chairman Sara Robbins as she was not in attendance. A bell and gavel was presented to the Blackbirds Club. Ludlum announced three new clubs: Milo Thorpe Club; Whiteville Wolfpack and the Golf Club..

Oratorical Contest: Chairman Ginger Hayden encouraged everyone to start contacting the schools for student participation. The topic this year is: "What the World Gains from Optimism". Documents must be in to the District Chairman by April 23, 2017

□ Leadership Development: Chairman Sandy Cyphers stated that she would try to obtain someone to discuss Time Management and Parliamentary Procedures at our next District meeting in Rocky Mt. on March 4th.

□ Junior Golf: Chairman David Hodges reviewed 2016 tournament results. For 2017 he encouraged participation by more girls. Hodges reported that we

will be sending boys and girls to Florida. They will be working with Jason Cox, who has the reputation as being the most powerful golf coach in North and South Carolina. We would like to partner with Special Olympics to form a Jr. Golf Program. Hodges reported that the Qualifying Tournament will be held at the Greenville Country Club on April 22nd .

Don Harritan jokingly asked if someone would create a "Jr. Golf for Dummies" book for those of us that do not understand what is happening. Hodges volunteered to come to any of our clubs and talk about Jr. Golf

□ OI Convention: Chairman Carey Foster encouraged members to plan to attend the OI Convention in Albuquerque, NM on July 6 -8, 2017. He has brochures about the city and tours that are available during our time there.

□ NC East District Convention: Chairman Sandy Cyphers encouraged everyone to attend the convention in Myrtle Beach. Cyphers stated that she has visited seventeen different hotels looking for the best prices with adequate facilities. She also checked on hotels in Wrightsville Beach, Atlantic Beach, and New Bern to have the convention in North Carolina. She found the prices in Myrtle Beach to be the most affordable by far for the facilities that we need for the convention. Cyphers stated that the prices at the Beach Cove Resort in Myrtle Beach would be very affordable on the week-end after Labor Day

□ Essay Contest: Chairman Dave Bast announced deadline for entries is February 28. The topic for 2017 is "Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges". He stated that most of the clubs have been participating in this endeavor. He asked that all Lt. Governors see him after the meeting to obtain materials for the Essay contest. Applications, official rules, and a program guide are available on the OI website.

□ PGI: Chairman Jimmy Lamm asked which clubs are currently participating in PGI and encouraged everyone to participate. He reported that Governor

Hart reached Level 6. He stated that the purpose of PGI is for all of us to become better Optimist leaders.

□ JOI: Chairman Sandy Cyphers attended the International Committee meeting in St. Louis. They discussed the ages of JOI members. Cyphers stated that she will give \$200 to the first two JOI clubs that are formed for the 2017 - 2018 physical year. She stated that the current JOI members may eventually become active Optimist members. She stated that there are 15,000 JOI members in 600 communities. The goal is to grow to 20,000 members.

□ Club Fitness: Chairman Angela Iwaniuk discussed some things that we can all do to help build our clubs into the best they can be. She referred to the Bulletin and read the eight things that are needed to be an "Honor Club". She then read the two additional requirements it will take to make your club "Distinguished".

□ NC East Web Site: Chairman Allan Ludlum reported that the update has been completed and it now includes current information. He encouraged all District Chairpersons to go to the website for information on their committee.

Governor Jim Hart briefly summarized the meeting information and shared his enthusiasm for a great beginning for the NC East District year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. with the Optimist Creed led by Gary Pender.

Carol Collier,
District Secretary/
Treasurer





Above are two photo shots of main highway #31 around the southern part of MAUI Island in Hawaii. Not a good place to have car trouble. Only met one car in two hours driving.



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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