

North Carolina East Optimist News

Dear Optimists:

We are just in to a new year of Optimism. If we all give at least a little something of our time and talents, we can make a positive difference to the youth. I know that some people have a lot going on, but if we all give a little something it can add to a big something as a district.

Hopefully our Optimist Strong Conference at our first quarter meeting will give us ideas to grow.

With more people we can do more things. Invite some friends, co workers, new people in your area, and even some past members to get into bringing out the best in kids.

Do a NOW program to get your new members program rolling.

While thinking about what I would say to a group of Optimists, something I remember from the past came to my mind. The pledge of allegiance was said



prior to a prayer. During the prayer the person made a comment about how often we say the pledge but do not think about the words. It got me to thinking about how often we do the same thing when saying the Optimist Creed. We may say it often but do we concentrate on what we are saying, or

do we just recite the words? Take a few minutes and analyze the words and think about how we can apply them to our everyday lives.

Let's work hard as a group to live and spread the Optimist Creed.

Have a Great Day

Carey Foster

Governor

NC East Optimist



Governor Jim Hart receives a parting gift from Past Governor Errol Warren at Governors Banquet.

First Timers At Convention



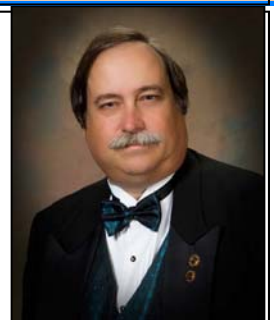
Michaela Baker, Northern Wake Optimist



Deb Watson, Rocky Mount Evening.

Allan Ludlum, **Web Master**

Please e-mail to me at aludlum@nceast-optimist.org and any time anyone sees a problem with the web site links or wrong information email me. If you have a club event please send it to me & I will post it on the web site. I also keep up the district's Facebook site. Please go to "North Carolina East District, Optimist International" Facebook page and click our Like button. Also if you would like to post club items there, let me know and I will give you rights if you need them.



NC East Officers – 2017-2018



From left; Governor-Designate Carey Foster, Ellen Foster, Governor-Elect Linda Shepherd, John Shepherd, Secretary/Treasurer Joyce Leake and Russell Leake.



From left; Judy Taylor, Lt. Governor-Elect Zone 5 Ed Taylor, Lt. Governor Elect Zone 6 J. G Baker, Michaela Baker, Lt. Governor elect Zone 4 Russell Leake, Joyce Leake, Lt. Governor Elect Zone 3, Jimmy Lamm and Janice Lamm.

Banquet Pictures at NCE Convention, September 7-10, Myrtle Beach, SC





District Membership



Auston Pusey
Membership Chair

3rd Quarter recruiting:

Cape Fear	Auston Pusey – 4	Northern Wake	Kimberly Norton - 2
	Curtis Keith – 1		Sandra Young - 1
Elizabethtown	Althea Lesane – 1	Raleigh	Scott Brown - 1
Golden Circle	Kathy Sandifer – 1		Raleigh club - 1
Wake Forest	Deborah Dial - 1	Chowan Edenton	Ashley Kent - 1
		Orange Country	Craig Lloyd - 1
		Washington	Patricia Peebles - 1

THE OPTIMIST



International Junior Golf Championships



This was the first tournament that we have partnered with the Tar Heel Youth Golf Association and is the first known “Zone-sponsored” Optimist Qualifier. Later in the month of April, Greenville Country Club was the venue for our second all-girl Peggy Kirk Bell-partnered Qualifier. I am proud to announce that N.C East had the largest number of junior golfers to participate of all of Optimist International’s Districts in the world. Two hundred-eighty four (284) young golfers, both boys and girls, participated in a NC East District Mahler Thorp Memorial Qualifier this year. Of that total, one hundred forty- three (143) were girls, and that is more than twice the number of girls that played in any other of Optimist International’s District’s Qualifier(s).

2017 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

Report to North Carolina East District Optimist Members

I am delighted to report to you that the 2017 OPTIMIST (Optimist International Junior Golf Championships) once again proved to be a great junior golf event. The North Carolina East District of Optimist International was well represented at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida for this year’s tournament. THE OPTIMIST is one of the best and most highly recognized junior golf tournaments in the world. As most of you are aware, in order to make it to PGA National for the Championships, junior golfers from ages 10 to 18 years old must play in one of Optimist International’s fifty-seven (57) District Qualifiers that are held all over the United States or at other Qualifiers held outside of the United States.

Optimist International encourages Districts to consider holding multiple Qualifiers. N.C. East held a total of five (5) OPTIMIST Qualifiers in 2017. In May, our traditional N.C. East District Qualifier was held at Belmont Lake Golf Club in Rocky Mount. An all-girl Qualifier that was partnered with the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour was held in Chapel Hill at UNC Finley Golf Course in March. This Qualifier will always be remembered for a snow delay. Also in March, an all-boy N.C. East / N.C. Junior Golf Foundation OPTIMIST Qualifier returned to Finley for a second year. NC East District’s Zone 3 sponsored a qualifier at Wedgewood Golf Course in Wilson in April.



Top, at scorer’s table (Blackbird Optimist John Shepherd in red)
Bottom , Girls and families enjoying cook out at Greenville Qualifier March NC East Qualifier at UNC Finley, Chapel Hill

We were represented in Florida at THE OPTIMIST by forty-three (43) junior golfers who earned spots at one of our NC East/Mahler Thorp Memorial events. Of those golfers, several are residents of states other than N.C. and two young sisters from Thailand were able to play in the OPTIMIST as a result of qualifying at a NC East event. Golfers who reside outside of our District are not counted against the spots allocated to us by Optimist International. In addition to the golfers whose golf and travel expenses were paid by the donations and proceeds of the Qualifiers, several other N.C. East golfers had expenses paid by their local sponsoring Optimist Club. I particularly commend the Garner Optimist Club. Of the five golfers that Garner Optimist Club sponsored at our Belmont Qualifier, four qualified to make the trip to PGA National. Not only did the Garner Club pay their golf expenses to the OPTIMIST at PGA National, they also had golf shirts monogrammed with the Garner Optimist Club name that were proudly worn by these young Garner athletes. NC East golfers were part of the largest delegation of junior golfers playing at PGA National of all Optimist Districts. When you add the players' family members who attended the tournament in Florida we estimate that approximately one-hundred fifty (150) of our folks were there. Representing both the N.C. East District as Junior Golf Chairman and Optimist International's Golf Committee, I attended all three of the sessions of THE OPTIMIST running from July 18th to August 3rd. Other N.C. East Optimist members who had provided crucial help with our 2017 N.C. District Qualifiers represented N.C. East District in Florida. Ken Dixon, Mahler Thorp International Sports Club's President, Vice-President Eric Norville, and Matthew Holloman (son of Mahler Thorp Board Member Rod Holloman) volunteered to work at the Championships and made the trip to PGA National for the final session.



At dinner with Pemika and Panchalika our Bangkok NC East Golfers.

Whereas all of our NC East golfers and their families reported having a great time at THE OPTIMIST in Florida, several golfers stood out for their excellent play. Our strongest division overall was the 14-15 Boys Age Division.

sion. Nine (9) out of the eleven (11) NC East golfers in that division made the "cut" and went on to play in final round of their tournament. Charlie Barr from Salisbury (class of 2021) shot 71-73 in the final two rounds and "leap-frogged" from forty-sixth (46th) place after round 1



Boys 14-15 NC E golfers at PGA National

to an eighth (8th) place finish for the tournament. Charlie qualified to come back to PGA National this November to play in the Optimist Tournament of Champions.

Symon Balbin (Class of 2019) finished higher than any of our Mahler Thorp golfers. Symon is from Pinehurst, and his dad after several phone calls with me, decided to send Symon independently on to PGA National for the OPTIMIST. Annually, many parents send their young golfers to the OPTIMIST by themselves, and this year I served as Symon's unofficial chaperone. Symon led the field with a score of 70 after the first round, and although he had a 75 in round 2 and was three (3) strokes behind the leaders, he came back in the final round to score a 69 and tied for first place in regulation. He lost on the second hole of a sudden death playoff and took home the second place trophy. Symon also has qualified for the Optimist Tournament of Champions in November and a spot in next year's OPTIMIST.



Symon Balbin of Pinehurst NC (on the left) placed 2nd in the Boys 14-15 Age Division.

Our best finish by a girl golfer was in the 13-14 Girls Age Division. Katherine Schuster from Kill Devil Hills has recently turned fourteen (14) years old and is one of the highest ranked girls in the Class of 2021 in the region. Katherine led the tournament through the first two rounds, but ultimately finished third. Katherine earned a spot at both the Tournament of Champions in November, as well as, the 2018 OPTIMIST. Katherine is certainly golf Division 1 College destined. For that matter, I predict that every one of our forty-three (43) Mahler Thorp OPTIMIST participants when eligible can eventually play golf on the college level if they so choose.

Katherine Schuster of Kill Devils Hill NC finished 3rd in the Girls 13-14 Age Division.



Possibly one of the best stories coming out of this year's tournament is about Holt Ward of Battleboro and his son Zack, a participant in this year's OPTIMIST at PGA National. Zack graduated in June from Northern Nash High School in Rocky Mount. He qualified for the OPTIMIST at the Belmont Lake Mahler Thorp Qualifier this past May. In 1984 Zack's dad Holt was a 17 year old golfer from Roanoke Rapids. Holt won the 1984 North Carolina District Qualifier for what was then called Optimist Junior World. The name of the tournament changed in 1995 to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships or THE OPTIMIST. Holt and his father made the trip to San Diego to play at Torey Pines in 1984 just as Holt and his son Zack did a month ago, but this time the



Holt (left) and Zack (right) at the Bear statue in front of PGA National Resort and Spa.

destination was Florida and PGA National. According to Optimist International, the Wards are one of just a few known father-son players in our Optimist Championships.

For you golfers in the crowd, 1984 was Optimist International's most storied year for the Championships as David Toms, Ernie Els, and Tiger Woods all won their respective age divisions in 1984. Holt says that he played one round at Optimist Junior World with past PGA golfer Billy Mayfair who, according to Holt, literally made every putt he looked at. Neither Holt nor Zack made the cut at their respective Optimist Championships, but their scores were just one stroke apart. Neither are saying who had the better score. Zack will be playing golf this year on the NC Wesleyan College golf team.

2018 will be the last year that the OPTIMIST will be held at PGA National. Since 1996, PGA National has been the venue for the OPTIMIST, but starting in 2019 the tournament will move to Trump National Doral Miami (yes, owned by our President and home of the "Blue Monster"). Optimist International is most thankful for Doral's support in making this move possible and keeping this tournament more affordable for our golfer's parents.

The support from the NC East Optimist Clubs is most appreciated. Although all but one NC East Zone had clubs that either sponsored golfers or made donations, young golfers residing in every NC East Zone participated. I especially want to thank the NC East Optimist Members who volunteered their help and worked at our District Qualifiers. Thank you again to the Members of the Mahler Thorp International Sports Club for your support in helping in the operations of our five (5) Qualifiers this year. Without the financial support of our sponsors we could not assist these young golfers in making their dreams of playing in a major international golf tournament come true. We are most appreciative to First Carolina Bank for being the Premier Sponsor of NC East District/ Mahler Thorp Memorial OPTIMIST Qualifying tournaments.

David Hodges
Chairman, NC East
District Optimist Junior
Golf
Member, 2016-2017
Optimist International
Junior Golf Commit-
tee



2017-18 Optimist Oratorical Contest

Topic: "What the World Gains from Optimism"

What an outstanding topic for our Optimist Oratorical Contest and one we could all use as a reminder. Our Oratorical Contest, incidentally the longest running Optimist program (1928), is a great way to encourage youth in our communities to develop verbal communication skills early in life; communication skills that they will use and benefit from throughout their lives.

The contest is open to boys and girls under the age of 19 and who have not yet graduated from high school. The contestants will compete in a combined gender contest presenting a speech of at least 4 minutes but not over 5 minutes in length. Applications, official rules and a program guide are available from the OI website www.optimist.org.

Consider this; not only are you helping youth to improve their communication skills, but winners will receive college scholarship funding. \$5,000 is awarded at the District level.

The Oratorical Contest starts at the Club level. Running a successful contest requires the time of a few dedicated and informed members in your club. Start planning your Contest early! Spread the word in schools, churches and in the local newspaper. Contact home schoolers and contestants who did not win in years past. Announce your contest in news releases and public service announcements on your local radio stations...samples of each, by the way, can also be found on the Optimist website. Use other ideas and suggestions from the OI website

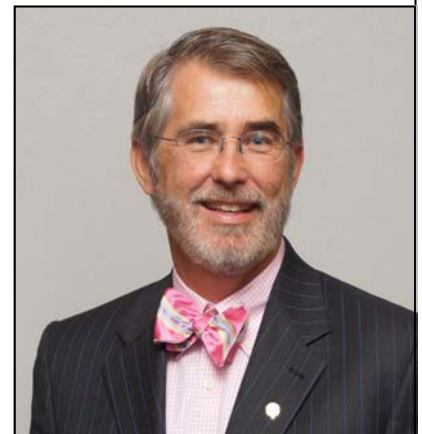
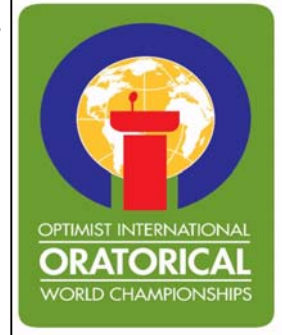
Awards at the club and Zone levels should be medallions (gold silver and bronze) and certificates for participation. Two participants from each club will advance to the Zone Contest. The advancing contestants should be identified only as "gold medal" winners, not as first and second place winners. A silver and bronze medal may be given to the next highest finishers. This form of recognition also applies to the Zone Contest as two contestants will advance to the District Contest.

Key Dates: April 23, 2018- Names of Zone Oratorical winners shall be provided to the District Oratorical Chair. Therefore, plan your Club's contest in late March or early April.

The District Contest will be held at the 3rd Quarter District meeting, May 12, 2018.

For more information or if you have any questions contact:

Errol Warren, NCED
Oratorical Chair
600 Tiffany Blvd Suite
E
Rocky Mount, NC
27804
252 903-8895
arcejw@hotmail.com



Junior Optimist International



How to Start a Junior Optimist International Club

You may charter a Junior Optimist International Club with only eight Junior Optimist International members. There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$50, an annual registration fee of \$60 and membership dues are as follows: \$8 per member per year for Alpha Clubs and \$10 per member per year for Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs. The registration and member fees are prorated depending on the month you charter the Junior Optimist International Club. Also, Junior Optimist International Clubs are only required to pay for the first 50 members.

Youth Code (Alpha Clubs) I Promise to:

Honor my parents and those whom experience has made wise.

Respect the beliefs of others.

Value all my friendships and ensure they are true.

Treasure and nurture my mind and body.

Be diligent and work at each task according to its importance.

Strive to be courteous at all times and truthful with everyone I meet.

Manage my money wisely and control materialism.

Respect all living things and help maintain the balance of life.

Work to become independent, always think for myself, set high goals in life and dedicate myself to the service of others.

THE NC EAST DISTRICT JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUBS

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF NASHVILLE – Formed 9/30/17 in Nashville

JUNIOR OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL "RIVER RATS" – Formed 9/30/17 in Rocky Mount

BEDDINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL JOI CLUB – Formed June 9, 2017 in Wilson

RALPH L. FIKE JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB – Formed Feb. 13, 2017 in Wilson

VIKINGS JOOI CLUB – Formed 9/30/2015 in Elm City

NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS–Formed June 22, 2015 in Wake Forest

WAKE FOREST OPTIMIST JOOI CLUB – Formed February 20, 2013 in Wake Forest

OCTAGON CLUB OF GOLDSBORO – Formed July 27, 2011 in Goldsboro

HALIFAX ACADEMY – Formed February 23, 1987

Our district added four new JOI clubs last year! Congratulations to Wilson Golden Circle and the Rocky Mount Optimist Clubs for building these four new clubs.

We are asking each sponsoring club to visit with their JOI clubs and

make sure they are all doing well and offer to support them as needed.

We are also requesting that each sponsoring club obtain updated rosters for the club members so that we can update the OI data bases with current information.

Thank you!

Angela Iwaniuk
JOI Club Chairman 2017-2018



A&A Club Winners 3rd Quarter

Top Ten Clubs 2016-2017



No. 1, Golden Circle, Kathy Sandifer; No. 2, Goldsboro, Dawn Clark; No 3, Rocky Mount Evening, Ed Taylor; No 4, Wilmington Cape Fear, Curtis Keith; No. 5, Garner, J. G. Baker.



No. 6, Wake Forest, Cathy Potter, No. 7, South Johnston, Jerry Medlin; No. 8, Chapel Hill, Bob Verne; No. 9, Roanoke Rapids, Carey Foster; No. 10, Henderson, Cathy Potter.

A&A 3rd Quarter

Top Clubs In Each Zone



Zone 1, Wilmington Cape Fear, Curtis Keith; Zone 2, Laurinburg, Gov. Jim Hart; Zone 3, Golden Circle, Kathy Sandifer; Zone 4, Rocky Mount Evening, Ed Taylor; Zone 5, Wake Forest, Cathy Potter; Zone 6, South Johnston, Jerry Medlin.

Top 3 Lt. Governors A&A 2nd Quarter



No. 1, Lt. Gov. Cathy Potter, Zone 5; No. 2, Lt. Gov. Errol Warren, Zone 4; No. 3, Lt. Gov. Linda Shepherd, Zone 3.



Dan Durham, District A&A Chair



Childhood Cancer Campaign

CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN



Thanks to all who participated in the CCC Yellow Duck Race at the fourth quarter convention. The winners were Taylor Richardson (David Hodges' granddaughter) 1st place; Ted Gaffin, OI representative from Arizona 2nd place; Cathy Potter 3rd place; and Jimmy Lamm whose duck came in last but not least. Thanks to the winners who donated their prize money to the Childhood Cancer Campaign. The district donations to CCC this year total \$4,785.

Congratulations to the Raleigh Optimist Club and all the volunteers who sponsor The Mile of Hope Weekend at Atlantic Beach. This year twenty five families, 130 guests, including 60 kids attended the Mother's Day weekend event. Thanks to Ed Moore and Gary Turner for organizing this wonderful event for the kids and their families affected by childhood cancer. Thanks also go to the district clubs which have donated funds to help make the Mile of Hope program possible.

I recently had a conference with Dr. Stuart Gold and Support Program Coordinator Meghan Fox at UNC Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department. The End of Treatment Bell donated by the Chapel Hill Club is a major success. The kids, their families and UNC staff use the bell to celebrate the small victories on their long journey back to good health. We also spoke about the development of the genetic research and specialized treatments now available in the treatment of childhood cancer. The Chapel Hill Optimist Club also donated therapy dolls, Beads of Courage Bags, and \$1,000 to the department.

Thanks for your support for the kids and their families. There have been several major breakthroughs this year in this fight against cancer. The research has made a lot of progress conquering this complicated disease.



Patricia Verne, Childhood Cancer Campaign Chair

Elm City Optimists relaxing at NCE Convention



OI Foundation Awards 3rd Quarter



Don Harritan, Whiteville, receives Presidents Club Award and Print.



Ed Taylor, Rocky Mount Evening receives Presidents Club Award.



Sandy Cyphers receives Distinguished Benefactor for \$5000 donation and print, \$500 donation.



Kathy Sandifer, Marcus Potter and Yancey Hines, (not pictured) all win incentive drawing for registration to 2018 NCE Convention.



The Optimist Club of Goldsboro makes donation for hurricane relief. Dawn Clark, Secretary/Treasurer of the local Optimist Club, presents a \$1,000.00 check to Sandy Williams, President of the Optimist International Foundation for 2017-2018. The OI Foundation has encouraged Optimist Clubs to donate to help after the hurricanes. The funds they receive will be distributed to various organizations dealing with the relief efforts.



Billy Edgerton, District OI Foundation Chair.

As your club's OI Foundation Representative, please encourage your members to join the Dime-A-Day program by donating \$36.50 to the Foundation this year. Also, get your board to fund a donation from the club. . If I can help you in any way, please let me know. Of course it is always easier to ask someone else to do something, if you have already done it. Please start by donating the \$36.50 yourself.

THANKS, BILL

BOYS & GIRLS HOMES of North Carolina



BOYS & GIRLS HOMES of North Carolina

Post Office Box 127 • 400 Flemington Drive
Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina 28454

September 20, 2017

Mr James A Hart
NC Optimist District East
204 Crescent Dr
Rocky Mount NC 27804

Dear Governor Hart:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,925.00* to Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina received on 9/19/2017 from the NC Optimist District East Silent Auction.

Your gift to Boys and Girls Homes truly provides wonderful opportunities for very deserving children. With your assistance, we are fulfilling our mission to meet the needs of vulnerable children by addressing their physical, emotional, social, educational and spiritual development. Boys and Girls Homes becomes a safe haven for our children, a place where they can build trusting relationships with a caring staff.

Our children and staff are grateful for your friendship and support. I pray that God will bless you for being such a blessing to our children.

For the kids
Ray Faircloth
Gary Faircloth
President/CEO



Sandy Cyphers, Wilmington Optimist, is presented Walt Armentrout Award by Ray Cockrell, right, Boys and Girls Home Representative. Auston Pusey, center, is a past award recipient.

Below are Golf Tournament winners from Boys & Girls Home Golf Tournament September 7, Myrtle Beach, SC.. Scores unavailable.



Second place winners, Jeff Wood, Auston Pusey and, not pictured, Dennis Marshall and Ron Bullard.



First Place winners, Don Harritan, not pictured, Billy Turner, Brad Johnson, Len Minshue



Third Place Winners, Errol Warren, Jerry Medlin, Tommy Peele and Allan Ludlum



Ray Cockrell,
B&G Home Representative

District Club Fitness/Club Services Chair

Leave a legacy of making a difference.

What Will be Your Club's Legacy?

I am working to build something that will speak for me long after I am gone.

Are you a member of an Optimist Club that used to be a top-notch club, one that was active and vital with lots of members, lots of passion to make your community a better place to live? Most of the Optimist clubs in the NC East District have at one time or another been one of the top clubs in our District. Many clubs reached a high pinnacle of success in their respective communities.

If you were lucky enough to be in one of these awesome clubs but now your club has lost its "pizzazz", there is always hope to bring it back! I read a very good article recently which pointed out that we should build a strong club much like we would build a strong business and we should keep the 6 P's of marketing in mind to help us focus on the things that will bring us success.

To attract new members to our clubs we will want to offer an attractive product at a good price that people will want to buy. The 6 P's of Marketing are:

1. Product - (What do we offer? What are our goals?)
2. Promotion - (Do we remember to promote our clubs positively?)
3. Price - (Do we have attractive prices for dues and other costs?)
4. People - (Do we encourage all members to be involved and help them to succeed?)
5. Process - (Do we keep our processes simple but effective?)

6. Passion - (Do we demonstrate passion for our club, our community, and our members - if we do, it will be contagious!)

Take a few minutes to reflect on your club today and compare it to former times:

- *Is your club better today than in previous times?
- *Are you doing more for the youth and the community?
- *Have we invited new members to help us serve more?
- *Do one or two of your members have to pull all the weight for your club? If so, it may burn them out and also cause others to lose interest quickly.

We are Optimists! Let us not forget that we can make the impossible happen when we all pull together! Let's revive all of the clubs in the NC East District and inspire them to be the best they can be! We will be happier, our clubs will be stronger and we will make a more lasting contribution in our communities. Let our legacies become one of strength, friendship, helping each other and making our world a better place to be!

Angela Iwaniuk

Club Fitness Chair 2017-2018



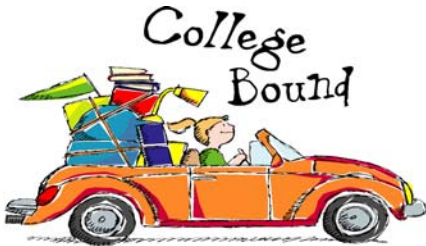
Random photos from Hospitality Room, NCE convention, Myrtle Beach SC



College Clubs

Let's Build Some College Clubs!

College Club - A College Club is a traditional Club built around a college or university and is primarily made up of college students interested in service, leadership and professional development.



Re-quirements

1. Fif-teen (15) Charter Members who have completed membership applications and paid the membership fee. A minimum of 9 of these Charter Members must attend the Charter Organizational Meeting.
2. Standard Club bylaws studied and ready for adoption.
3. Reports on hand at Optimist International in St. Louis on each of the last two informational meetings.
4. The new Club must have an assigned Field Representative from Optimist International (see below).
5. Notify and inform the Governor and District NCB Chairperson of the Club's intent to organize

New Club Start-Up Costs:

\$425 to Optimist International for New Club Start-Up Costs

\$325 Charter Fee

Dues for College Members are \$22.94 Annually (compared to \$64.06 for regular members)

Some of the Colleges within our District:
East Carolina University

Meredith College

Barton College

UNC Wilmington

Mt. Olive College

NC Central University

NC State University

Approximately 25 Community Colleges

Duke University

UNC Chapel Hill

Campbell University

Submitted by - Angela Iwaniuk

District College Clubs Chair



Raleigh Dinner Optimist Club

Collects Bicycles

Donated bicycles and helmets needed to be picked up Thursday Oct. 29th. Craig, Rich, Jimmy, Tommy, and Carlton, with trucks and trailers, met in Durham Thursday morning and picked up 51 bicycles, tricycles, and helmets. They were in sizes from toddler tricycles to teenager bicycles and in many colors.

Dear Fellow Optimists,

It is an honor and privilege to serve as Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Region for 2017-18. I am so excited to represent the North Carolina East District and Optimist International; have the opportunity to visit each district in the region; meet more Optimists; and gain ideas from other clubs to serve more youth in our communities.

Optimist International President Nick Prillaman has put together an *“Optimist Strong Team”* to help all members ***“Be Optimist Strong – Be the Difference”*** as we grow all districts to enhance the lives of the youth in all communities. Each district has been encouraged to conduct *“Optimist Strong Conferences,”* and I am delighted that Governor Carey Foster has chosen to incorporate this training into the First Quarter Meeting of the NC East District. Governor Carey Foster has given so much of his time serving youth and believes *“Attitude Makes a Difference with the Kids.”* Let’s keep our attitude focused on the positive and assist him with his goals and objectives. This is the year to come together, be the best that we can be, and return the NC East District to the **#1 District** in Optimist International. Optimists--**you can do this** through efforts by all members, clubs, and zones who *“Just Ask”* and perform activities to *“Bring Out the Best in Kids.”*

Social media is the way of communication for our younger generation. Jump on the bandwagon and embrace their means of communicating through Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, Instagram, and You Tube to name a few. Their wisdom and vision

are important for the future of Optimist International. Encourage them to become Optimists, join in our passion of serving youth, and provide service to their community.

All members are encouraged to strive for the following for retaining our current members, adding new members, and building four (4) new clubs during 2017-18 which will assist with the challenge of 100,000 members by the Optimist International 100th Anniversary. Let’s support Governor Carey Foster whose motto is *“Attitude Makes a Difference with the Kids,”* and may all youth be truly blessed through our efforts in all communities.

I look forward to seeing and working with all of you. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call or let me know.

Yours in Optimism,

Lou Anna Hardee

Lou Anna Hardee
International Vice President 2017-18



The Optimist Club of Goldsboro recently installed the club's officers for the current year. Shown from left to right are: Anetta Reid, Gary Pender, Matt Howell, Marcus Reid, Bill Edgerton, President Jewel Wilson, and Lt. Gov. Jimmy Lamm, who officiated the installation ceremony.

District Essay Contest

The topic for the 2017-18 Optimist Essay Contest is:

“Can Society Function Without Respect?”

The Optimist International Essay Contest was first sponsored in 1983. Club winners advance to the District contest. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. The contest is open to students under age 18 as of 10/1/2017 who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent. Students must enter in the District in which they reside. The District Winner is awarded a \$2,500 scholarship, furnished by the Optimist International Foundation. All Club winning Essays are due to the District Chair by February 28, 2018. Individual Club deadlines vary, however, most Club deadlines are on or about January 31, 2018.

Essay Contest Rules Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards. Section I - General Rules 1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.

2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an At-Large contest if a local club is not available. An At-large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.

3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretative literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.

4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.

5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 18 as of October 1 st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 – September 30). Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport before participating if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist International. District winners must provide a copy of birth certificate or passport with application.



David Bast, District Essay Chair

David Bast

District Essay Chair

dbast@yahoo.com

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

FOURTH QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING

Beach Cove Resort – North Myrtle Beach, SC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 9, 2017

The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

Jim Hart	Governor
Allan Ludlum	Immediate Past Gov.
Jimmy Lamm	Past Governor
Carol Collier	District Sec/Treas
Linda Shepherd	Zone 3 Lt. Governor
Errol Warren	Zone 4 Lt. Governor
Cathy Potter	Zone 5 Lt. Governor
JG Baker	Zone 6 Lt. Governor
Bob Floyd	OI Representative

The following clubs were represented:

Zone 1: Wilmington; Cape Fear

Zone 2: Whiteville

Zone 3: Wilson Golden Circle; Goldsboro; Wilson Evening; Elm City

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

Zone 5: Henderson; Wake Forest; Chapel Hill

Zone 6: Raleigh; Raleigh Dinner; South Johnston

Fifty-six members were in attendance at the meeting.

Governor Jim Hart called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Gov. Hart led in the reciting of the

Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Billy Edgerton.

Nicole Fontana welcomed everyone to North Myrtle Beach. She was very impressed with the work we do for children in our community.

Gov. Jim Hart recognized first-time attendees and the second-time attendees.

Secretary/Treasurer Carol Collier presented the minutes of the 3rd Quarter District Meeting. Motion was made by Horace Goff (Wilson Evening Club) with a second by Lou Anna Hardee (Greenville) to accept the minutes. Motion was approved.

Carol Collier presented the 3rd Quarter Financial Report. Motion was made by Allan Ludlum (Wilmington) with a second by Don Harritan (Whiteville Club) to accept the financial report. Motion was approved.

Jerry Medlin announced that all expense vouchers from the Leadership members, Committee chairpersons and Lt. Governors are due to Carol Collier no later than September 20th in order for her to close out the books before she passes them on to the next administration.

Allan Ludlum made a motion to accept Linda Shepherd's letter to become our NC East District Governor for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year. Lou Anna Hardee seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Russell Leake has submitted a letter to become our NC East District Governor for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: Wayne Sidelinger encouraged everyone to get their pictures and articles to him in a timely manner

Candidate Qualifications: Lou Anna Hardee will be serving the Mid-Atlantic region as Vice President. She will help Governor-Designate, Carey Foster in any way she can. She reminded us that we

need to start filling our Committee chairs for next year.

A&A Awards: Chairman Dan Durham presented 4th quarter awards: Top 10 Clubs (#10 Henderson; #9 Roanoke Rapids; #8 Chapel Hill #7 South Johnston; #6 Wake Forest; #5 Garner; #4 Wilmington - Cape Fear; #3 Rocky Mt. Evening; #2 Goldsboro; #1 Wilson Golden Circle.

Top Club in each Zone - 1- Wilmington- Cape Fear; 2 - Laurinburg; 3 - Wilson Golden Circle; 4 - Rocky Mt. Evening; 5 - Wake Forest; 6 - South Johnston

Participation Awards (19 clubs participated in A&A).

Lt. Governor Awards (#1- Linda Shepherd; #2- Errol Warren; #3- Cathy Potter)

Membership: Auston Pusey passed out \$ 10 Walmart gift cards to those who sponsored new members. Seventeen people had sponsored new members during the third quarter.

Childhood Cancer: Chairman Trish Verne reported that help is always needed at the Ronald McDonald houses across the state. She talked to us about how much fun the children had at Camp Kaleidoscope. This is a place where the children can briefly forget about their sickness for a week and just be kids.

Trish reminded us to purchase tickets for the Duck race, which will be held at 4:00 at the Lazy River. She then collected money for Childhood Cancer at the altar call.

Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina:

Ray Cockrell announced that thirteen students graduated from the Thomas Academy at the Boys and Girls Home.

Their campaign to raise money included a state-wide raffle for a seven-day stay at Carolina Beach.

Allan Ludlum announced that nineteen golfers participated in the District Golf Tournament. He will present a check from the proceeds for \$500 to

Ray Cockrell for the Boys and Girls Home. Allen passed out awards from the District Golf Tournament. Don Harritan's team came in first place.

OI Foundation: OIF President Sandy Williams spoke to us, in the absence of Craig Boring, Executive Director. Sandy encouraged us to apply for Club Grants. She stated that each district could get up to \$10,000 in scholarship grant money. She also encouraged each member to participate in Dime-A-Day. Chairman Billy Edgerton informed us that only 4.6% of our members donated to Dime-A-Day. OI provides the full scholarship funds for both the Essay and Oratorical Contests. They also help fund all the information the clubs receive from Optimist International.

Billy Edgerton passed out awards, which consisted of prints and banner patches for the Whiteville club for donating \$365; Ed Taylor for donating \$250; and Sandy Cyphers for donating \$5,000. He then announced the winners of a drawing for free registration at the district meeting. The winners were: Marcus Potter, Kathy Sandifer and Yancy Hines. OI Foundation donations from clubs and individuals were accepted during altar call.

CCDHH: Chairman Angela Iwaniuk announced that the CCDHH winners and party was held at 6:00 on May 18th, 2017 at Eastern NC School for the Deaf in Wilson. The district winner was presented with a \$2500 scholarship from OI.

New Club Building: Chairman Sara Robbins stated that there is a strong possibility that we will be able to start a new JOI Club at Wilson Community College. We are very excited about the two JOI clubs we currently have in Wilson. They are already doing great things for the youth and community. Sara is also looking in to the possibly of forming a JOI club at Hunt High School in Wilson. If we can get a JOI club at Hunt , we will have a club in each of our three high schools.

Oratorical Contest: Angela Iwaniuk thanked the Goldsboro club for hosting the Oratorical contest.

The topic this year is: "What the World Gains from Optimism".

Scholarships will be awarded at the district level: \$2500 (1st place); \$1500 (second place); and \$1000 (3rd place). The contest began on time and was a huge success. All contestants did an outstanding job. The first and second place winners were announced at the end of the contest. Faith Koesters, represented by the Greenville club, was this year's Oratorical contest winner. The second runner up was Noah McKay, represented by the Northern Wake Optimist club. Congratulations to these two outstanding young people. We are confident that NC East District will be well represented.

Junior Golf: Chairman David Hodges encouraged everyone to try to work at the Junior Golf tournaments. He informed us that we had contestants this year, from as far away as England and Bangkok, Thailand. He reminded us that the Tournament of Champions will be held in November. He informed us that change is inevitable, and we had more female contestants than ever before.

OI Convention: Chairman Carey Foster talked about the OI Convention in Albuquerque, NM, that was held on July 6 -8, 2017. Sixteen members from NC East District attended the OI Convention this year. The workshops and seminars were very informative. The general meeting was very exciting as the Wilson Golden Circle Optimist Club was proud to be in the top four clubs for the 2016-17 club of the Year. This award is presented annually to the most outstanding Club in each Region. We were also very well represented as Sandy Cyphers was elected to the International Board of Directors and Lou Anna Hardee was elected Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Time was taken out of our busy schedules to have fun! Ten of us rode a tram to the top of the Sandia Peak, which had an elevation of 10,378 feet.

We also took a train ride from Albuquerque to Santa Fe, toured Old Town Albuquerque and the most exciting part of our extracurricular activities

was riding in a Hot Air balloon!

NC East District Convention: Chairman Errol Warren thanked everyone for attending the convention. He encouraged everyone to check out and bid on the items for sale at the silent auction. Errol encouraged us to be as generous as possible when bidding on these items since all the money raised during this event will be donated to the Boys & Girls Home of NC. He informed us that one of the items was a "mystery envelope" which contains at least \$100. Errol also reminded us to purchase tickets for the Duck Race which will be held at 4:00 at the Lazy River. All money raised during this event will benefit Childhood Cancer.

Essay Contest: Chairman Dave Bast introduced the 2017 Essay winner, Carly Stephenson. Carly read her very inspirational essay. She had previously received a plaque and \$2500. Bast announced the topic for 2018; "Can Society Function Without Respect" which is very appropriate for today's youth.

PGI: Chairman Jimmy Lamm encouraged everyone to get involved in PGI. If you are not currently participating, now is a good time to start. He asked for a show of hands of those that are currently working on the PGI levels. He stated that the purpose of PGI is for all of us to become better Optimist leaders. PGI offers members the opportunity for personal growth while working at their own pace. Jimmy Lamm recognized Linda Shepherd for achieving Level VIII. Congratulations to Linda!

JOI: Chairman Sandy Cyphers informed us that we are currently +125 JOI members and +48 new JOI clubs this year. Members from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean celebrated the 25th Annual President's banquet "A Day at the Races." Sandy challenged the Rocky Mt. Evening Club to build a JOI club in their community.

Club Fitness: Chairman Angela Iwaniuk discussed some things that we can all do to help build our clubs. She referred to the T-Shot report to inform us that seven clubs are possible candidates to

be Honor clubs if they can achieve +1 in membership by September 30th. She also announced that we have 20 clubs that are remaining stable with no additions and no losses.

NC East Web Site: Chairman Allan Ludlum encouraged each member to refer to the NC East District website often to stay aware of what is happening in our district. The NC East District website is also where you will find registration forms and deadlines for hotels and district meetings.

Optimist International Representative, Bob Floyd, Vice President of the Middle America Region, thanked us for the invitation to attend our District meeting. He stressed to us that he and his wife were humbled by our hospitality and stated that they were just one of us. He recognized and congratulated Sandy Cyphers on her appointment to the OI Board of Directors, Lou Anna Hardee on her position as Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Region and Sandy Williams as the Optimist International Foundation President. He also congratulated David

Hodges on his outstanding accomplishments with Junior Golf. Bob reminded us to try to attend the First Quarter "Optimist Strong" Conference.

Governor Jim Hart briefly summarized the meeting information. He reminded us to bid on items at the Silent Auction, buy tickets and attend the Duck Race for Childhood Cancer, participate in Dime-A-Day for the OI Foundation and to attend the Governor's Reception and Ball starting at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. with the Optimist Creed led by Gov. Hart.

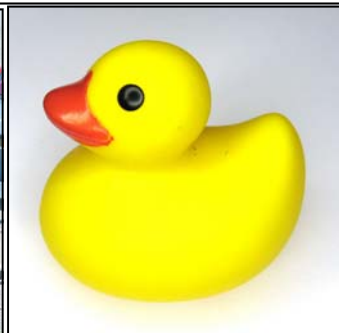


Carol Collier

District Secretary/
Treasurer



Jimmy Lamm is declared last place in the 2017 CCC Duck race at NCE Convention in Myrtle Beach SC



Vice President Lou Anna Hardee and Curtis Hardee pose for photo in Albuquerque in front of balloon basket.



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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