



# North Carolina East Optimist News

Optimist bring out the best in kids. As Optimists, our clubs need to find out what is needed in your community to work with the kids. Different clubs do different things, but if it makes a positive difference to the community it is great. The more members we have the more we can do for the kids. get more members and do more projects.

Some areas do not have Optimist clubs. Lets get together to form a club so that area can provide optimism to there area. Some suggestions have been Manteo and the Nags Head area. If you have any possible contacts, let me know. Some clubs are struggling. Contact them if you have any ideas for them to get better.

If you have any projects or activities that are successful, let the clubs know. It might help them grow and do more for the kids.

More members, more clubs, and more projects means more positives for the kids.

Have a Great Day!

Carey Foster

Governor, NCEast



## First Timers at 2nd Quarter Board Meeting



Pam Franks, Greenville Optimist

Leonard Daniels, Rocky Mount Optimist

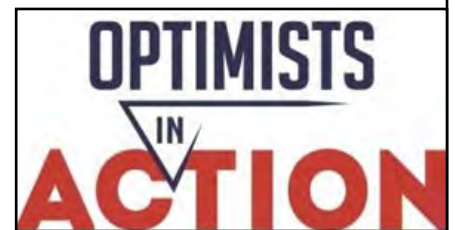
## Golden Circle Completes Ninth Annual Golf Tournament



The Golden Circle just completed its annual golf tournament and raffle. Total funds raised were \$7,873.71.

Thanks to all our sponsors! Seated, lady with the pretty legs, Carol Collier.

Standing from left: Jeanette Ferrell, Brenda Carter, Janice Lamm, Linda Shepherd, Celia Wise, Linda Watson, Jo Belle Finch, Jean McLamb, Kathy Sandifer, Dot Windham, Sara Robbins, Brenda Farmer, Linda Mizzelle, Norma Duell, Dianne Keeter and Angela Iwaniuk.



# PERSONAL GROWTH AND INVOLVEMENT

Hello fellow Optimists,

I hope that you have had a great summer and will be looking forward to the fall season and football.

I would like to remind you about the Personal Growth and Involvement Program. Participation in the PGI offers members the opportunity for personal growth while working at your own pace and it doesn't cost you a dime. It will also help you give fresh ideas for your Club meetings.

Listed below are some of the benefits of the PGI program.

- Allows club members to be recognized and appreciated for personal and professional accomplishments.

- Gives members the personal responsibility for his/her involvement in club activities.

- Offers personal growth opportunities to each member.

- PGI introduces you to Optimist International skills development through the ten levels of involvement, personal growth and achievement.

The PGI program is composed of 6 elements.

Preview the elements listed below.

- Presence/ Attendance

- Knowledge of the Organization

- Activities/Programs

- Personal Growth/Self Development

Growth/ New members

Communication

## HOW PGI WORKS

When you enroll in the program, you will receive a passport from the District Chair or your club. Enter your name and club number on the front of your passport. As a member completes a step, either the club president or secretary/ treasurer (for levels 1-7) and for levels (8-10) the District Governor or Lt. Governor initials the steps on the passport.

When an entire level is completed, the proper club or district representative should fill out, sign and date the recognition form. The club then sends the form to the district director of Personal Growth, or directly to Optimist International, attention Jackie Moore, for processing.

Optimist International will forward the appropriate pin backings to the District Director of the PGI to be awarded at the next District meeting or convention.

If you have any questions please contact Jimmy Lamm at 252-237-7398, 252-245-6441,

[lamm@myglnc.com](mailto:lamm@myglnc.com).

Yours in Optimism,

Jimmy Lamm



# NC East District New Club Building

Last quarter my article asked **WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?**

As of this quarter I am still waiting for the answer to **"WHERE"** and **"WHEN"**?

The other question was **WHAT?** As optimists we can all answer **"NEW CLUB BUILDING"**.

I know that somewhere out there in each of this district's six zones is a community that needs an **OPTIMIST CLUB!** A community that needs optimist members to help in **"BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN THE YOUTH IN THAT COMMUNITY"**. What does it take? The commitment of an optimist or optimists in a club to work to **get R done!**

Optimist International President Nick has challenged each district to build four (4) clubs during this optimist year. **Where** does our district stand 0? **NOT GOOD!** This district does not deserve being tagged 0.

I'm charging **GOVERNOR CAREY, VICE PRESIDENT LOU ANNA, PAST GOVERNORS, LT. GOVERNORS, CLUB PRESIDENTS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF THIS**

**DISTRICT** to work and **BUILD AN OPTIMIST CLUB BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER!**



**Governor Carey's theme is "ATTITUDE MAKES A DIFFERENCE"**. With a positive and determined attitude we can be **OPTIMIST STRONG** and **MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

**WHO** will meet the challenge? **YOU** the optimist member.

**WHERE** will it be? A community in the **N.C. East District**.

**WHEN?** Hopefully **SOON!**

I'm here and committed to work and help any member of this district with the process. **JUST ASK!**

Sandy Cyphers  
2017-2018 District New Club Building Chairman  
(910-367-3295)



Sandy Cyphers, NCB Chair challenging Lt. Governors to build a new Optimist club.

# International Convention

The International Convention this year will be July 8-10 in Ottawa Canada. I will have the hotel information at the district meeting. You can also go to [www.optimist.org/convention](http://www.optimist.org/convention) to do it. They also have tours and activities to do if you want to go a few days earlier or stay a few days after the convention.

14 NCEast members have registered for Ottawa.

Sandy Cyphers, Wilmington

Dianne Boyette, Golden Circle

Carol Collier, Golden Circle

Angela Iwanuik, Golden Circle

Sara Robins, Golden Circle

Kathy Sandifer, Golden Circle

Linda Shepherd, Golden Circle

John Shepherd, Blackbird

Billy Edgerton, Goldsboro

Janis Edgerton, Goldsboro

Carey Foster, Roanoke Rapids

Ellen Foster, Roanoke Rapids

Lou Anna Hardee, Greenville

Curtis Hardee, Greenville



Carey Foster  
OI Convention Ambassador

## Hello Optimist Friends!

I am so excited about how wonderful the upcoming Optimist year is going to be with all of us striving together to make NC East the best district in Optimist International!

I have been working steadily to bring a few new faces into positions of leadership. We have so much to learn from the strong role models we have had, not only in our own district, but also in our parent organization—Optimist International.

There is still time to take advantage of the great opportunity we have to be present at the 100th Optimist International Convention taking place July 7-10 in Ottawa, Canada. In addition to the training provided for various leadership roles in the local club and district, there are numerous excellent seminars for convention attendees where ideas are shared that may benefit each club as we seek to bring out the best in our youth, our communities, and ourselves. And what a thrilling experience it is in the general session when the flags are presented representing the many countries where we have Optimists working together to build a better future for our youth! I love meeting Optimists from other areas and look forward to renewing acquaintances with like-minded people each year at the convention.

Registration is easy at



Linda Shepherd showing shirt for

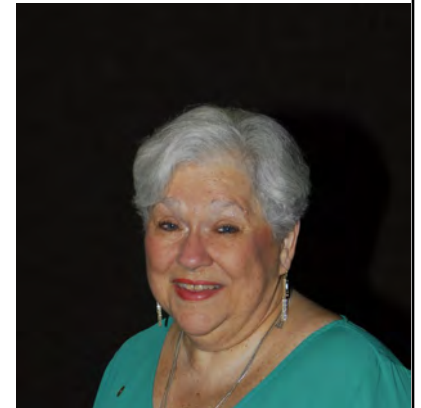
[www.optimist.org/convention](http://www.optimist.org/convention). Make sure you have a passport, book your flight, and get ready for a fantastic experience. You will come home with renewed enthusiasm and energy for more and more projects that will benefit our youth and our community, both now and in the future!

I look forward to working with each of you in 2018-2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way. I am...

Forever an Optimist!

Linda Shepherd

Governor-Elect



## First Timer at 2nd Quartet Board Meeting



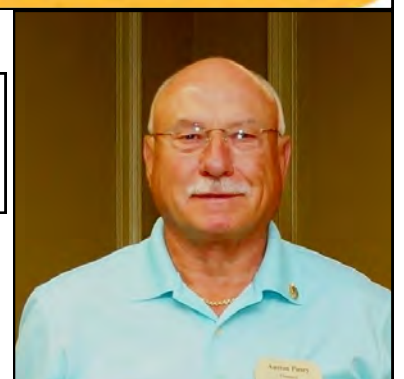
Becky Sikes, Goldsboro Optimist

## District Membership



Auston Pusey

Membership Chair



# Communications Contest for Deaf & Hard of Hearing



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNICATION  
CONTEST  
FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

The District CCDHH Contest was held on April 25th at the Eastern NC School for the Deaf in Wilson, NC. Four contestants participated; all are students from the School for the Deaf.

The Golden Circle Optimist Club hosted the contest and furnished pizzas and desserts for the contestants, their families and the judges prior to the contest. Brenda Farmer was Mistress of Ceremonies and did a wonderful job recruiting a time-keeper and three judges who could all read sign language.

Governor-Elect Linda Shepherd presented the certificates and medalions to the contestants. The winner's information has been submitted to Optimist International for the \$2500 scholarship to be processed. The winner is planning to attend the 3rd Quarter District meeting in Goldsboro to receive an engraved plaque from the District.



Pictured left to right are: NC East Governor-Elect, Linda Shepherd; Contestants, Alfonza Robinson (winner), Jeremiah Deans (2nd Place), Jemia Kasango (3rd Place) and Alliyaah Sharpe (4th Place)

# A&A Club Winners 1st Quarter

## Top Ten Clubs 2017-2018



From Left: No.1, Wilmington Cape Fear, Sandy Cyphers; No. 2, South Johnston, Dave Bast; No .3, Roanoke Rapids, Russell Leake; No. 4, Henderson, Thurman Murphy; No. 5, Golden Circle, Sara Robbins.



From left: No. 6, Goldsboro, Jewel Wilson; No. 7, Chowan-Edenton, Russell Leake; No. 8, Wake Forest, Cathy Potter; No. 9, Garner, R. J Baker; No. 10, Greenville, Becky Sikes.



# ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARDS PROGRAM

## Top Clubs In Each Zone



Zone 1, Wilmington Cape Fear, Sandy Cyphers; Zone 2, Laurinburg, Sandy Cyphers; Zone 3, Golden Circle, Sara Robbins; Zone 4, Roanoke Rapids, Russell Leake; Zone 5, Henderson, Thurman Murphy; Zones 6, South Johnston, Dave Bast.

## Top 3 Lt. Governors



From Left: No. 1, Zone 6 Lt. Governor R. J. Baker; No. 2, Zone 4 Lt. Governor Russell Leake; No. 3, Zone 5 Lt. Governor Ed Taylor

I thank all clubs that have taken part in the A&A awards program for the first and second quarters of this year. Thirteen clubs participated for this quarter and four zones were represented. All clubs are welcome to participate in this Optimist International approved program each quarter, hopefully your club will participate during the third quarter. The program provides an opportunity for each club in all Districts to share how your club is being a friend of youth by providing the youth in  
*(Continued on page 12)*

# Greetings NC East District

I am pleased to report to you that we have concluded our 2017-2018 Junior Golf Qualifying Tournament Schedule. We have once again made significant gains in the number of young golfers who participated in our 2017-2018 OPTIMIST Qualifiers over the previous Optimist year. Again this year, the NC East District will have the most participants (376) in its Qualifiers than any Optimist District in the world. We also had the first known OPTIMIST District Qualifier in the United States that was held in the fall

(November 4-5, 2017). Three (3) of our six (6) OPTIMIST Qualifiers this Optimist year were held at UNC Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill. It is clear from the participation at Finley that young golfers like that venue. Not unlike other Optimist Districts, we partnered with other junior golf organizations on five (5) of our six (6) District Qualifiers. We also held a traditional OPTIMIST Qualifier much like in the day of past Junior Golf Chairmen Carlton Baird and Jerry Medlin. Best described, the traditional Qualifier is one in which an Optimist District's Clubs enter young golfers from their communities. In the past golf tournament expenses and awarding of winner's cost to participate in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (the OPTIMIST) in Florida were funded primarily by monies from Clubs. Times have changed. There are hundreds more Junior Golf tournaments now than at the OPTIMIST's inception in 1978. Junior Golf has become big business. Optimist International possesses a history and commitment to produce the best International Junior Golf Tournament in the World. NC East District is committed to see that Optimist International's stake in junior golf remains of value to both the Optimist organization and especially to young golfers everywhere.

The NC East District's Junior Golf Committee is most grateful to those Clubs that gave youth from their communities the opportunity to participate in a NC East OPTIMIST Qualifier. We fear, however, that without more participation by NC East Clubs through entering golfers in our traditional Qualifier or donating funds to assist in the running of the tournaments that our District may go the way of the Capital Virginia District and other districts that



have eliminated their traditional Qualifier. This would be most unfortunate.

Providing opportunities for more young golfers to participate in Optimist International's largest project....Junior Golf....is what your Junior Golf Committee believes in and is the reason for working toward growing our Qualifiers. Currently, NC East District has been allotted more Qualifying Spots for the OPTIMIST than any other District. Our venues are the best in Optimist International. These are several of the reasons why we have been successful in attracting young aspiring golfers residing inside and outside our District to come and participate in a NC East event. Young golfers, parents and spectators learn about OPTIMISM by attending a Qualifier in the NC East District. This year alone, we had junior golfers from many countries come to NC East to earn their spot to play in the Championships in Florida at PGA National----Thailand, China, Philippines, Canada, Hungary and Norway. NC East is the "international" in Optimist International. We had kids from New Hampshire, Delaware and New Jersey to Louisiana and Florida. A total of nine states were represented in NC East tournaments. NC East Golf is about American "Southern" hospitality. We anticipate that our NC East delegation of golfers going to Florida will be the largest in the world as was the case last year.

A special thank you goes out to the following outstanding

# Optimist Junior Golf

NC East Optimist Clubs whose member-volunteers made our Junior Golf project successful this year.

Black Bird Optimist Club

Mahler Thorp International Optimist Sports Club

Rocky Mount Evening Optimist Club

Golden Circle Optimist Club

Wilson Evening Optimist Club

Orange County Optimist Club

Now that our NC East Qualifiers are completed all that is left is raising the funds needed to pay the \$10 per golfer fees to Optimist International. If your Club has not participated in some way to have helped make NC East Junior Golf NUMBER ONE please help us now with a donation.

The OPTIMIST (and its' predecessor Optimist Junior World) has been a springboard for many of the great golfers of our time. In 1984 at Torey Pines, Optimist International's Championships yielded winner's trophies in their respective age divisions to three young future hall of fame golfers .....Ernie Els, David Toms and Tiger Woods. Wouldn't you feel proud, as I certainly would, to be a part of helping a future golf hall of famer come out of a NC East Qualifier and reaching their potential? The Optimist

International Junior Golf Championships has meant so much to so many for so long.

The OPTIMIST is about nine (9) weeks away. Golfers from NC East Qualifiers will head to Florida for an unforgettable golf experience with young people like themselves from all over the world. They will make new friends and learn about other's customs and cultures. College coaches will discover their next stars. Families will spend a special week that they will always cherish at beautiful PGA National Spa and Resort. To many of these young promising golfers the OPTIMIST will be their first exposure to what real competitive golf is all about.



On behalf of the NC District Junior Golf Committee, thank you for allowing us to serve youth in giving them opportunity of reaching their goals and making their dreams come true.

David Hodges



Thai Golfers "Fancy" and "Friendly" meet Chinese Exchange Student Golfers at Belmont Qualifier

*(Continued from page 9)*

your community the opportunity to participate in athletic programs, essay and oratorical contest and scholarship programs.

All the programs your club complete in your community are important to the youth that may participate in the activity and many may not have the programs offered if your club did not offer the program. All clubs are awarded point for each and every activity you provide to your community youth. All Optimist International, local athletic league, youth programs shared by youth Club sponsors. Your club is provided point for cash donations provided by your club. The best way to share a successful program that "works " in your community is the share that idea with other clubs. Many new clubs in your Zone and in the District provide their community programs as a result if seeing the District newsletter and from the

A&A program. The A&A program also provides points for your club members sponsoring and retaining new members, attending Zone, District and the International Convention.

Each quarter the clubs that participate earn Award Certificates for the top ten clubs and those clubs that were not in the top ten receive a Certificate of Participation. The top three Lt Governors are also provided with a certificate. Please consider being a part of the friendly competition.

Dan Durham

AAA Chair

NCEast District



## Wilson County JOI Clubs Going Strong During the Second Year

The Golden Circle formed two JOI clubs during the 2017-2018 year and each of them are still vibrant and working hard in our community!

The Fike High School JOI Club has collected 694 books this year to donate to the Pediatric clinic in Rocky Mount - during a 2-year period they have donated over 1200 books to the clinic! Children who visit the clinic may pick out a book and take it home with them. The Fike club has also installed a "Blessing Box" near the front of the school. It is like a miniature "food pantry". The words on the blessing box state "Need a blessing - take one. Share a blessing - leave one". The blessing box will be a drop off and pick up box for non-perishable food items.

The Beddingfield High School JOI club continues to grow and gain new members and have recently

elected officers for next year. They have several projects underway this year, which include: Collecting and donating books for their on-site day care for ages 3-5 years old, training and volunteering with United Way agencies, spearheading another pop tab collection for the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville, volunteering and working at a fundraising carnival for Lee Woodard Elementary School, organizing an end-of-year club scrapbook (which will include the club's history), planning for a Wilson Parks & Recreation clean up day, and expanding efforts to collect and share local and state safety information for youth.

What a JOY to be involved with these JOI clubs!

Angela Iwanuik

JOI District Chair



# District Oratorical contest 2018



For the last couple of months a group of outstanding students eager to demonstrate their poise and mastery of public speaking have expressed their opinions in speeches on this year's topic "Where Are My Roots of Optimism?" In contests throughout our District, first at the club level and then at the Zone, the speeches have been made and finally after all the hard work, the contestants were selected for our District Contest at the 3rd Quarter Meeting in Goldsboro. Our contestants range in age



from 10 to 18 and come from Henderson, Greenville, Goldsboro and points in between. Congratulations to the Finalists and Good Luck!

The winner of our District Contest in addition to winning a \$2500 scholarship moves on to the Optimist Regional/World Championships and a chance to win up to \$22,500.

Thank you to the clubs that held contests and thanks to the Lt Governors who conducted the Zone Contests. Oratorical contest to held May 12th at 10am. Winners to be announced at luncheon.

Errol Warren

Oratorical Contest Chair



Essay contest winners to be announced at luncheon May 12th in Goldsboro..

Dave Bast, District Chair.



## OI Foundation Awards 1st Quarter



Goldsbor \$500 Donation, Jewel Wilson



Henderson \$500 Donation. Thurman Murphy

# Childhood Cancer Campaign

Mother's Day week end is the Mile Of Hope project sponsored by The Raleigh Optimist Club. This year the theme is "Blackbeard's Revenge" The club will be entertaining twenty five children recently diagnosed with childhood cancer. These children are patients at

Duke , UNC and ECU pediatric hematology / oncology departments.

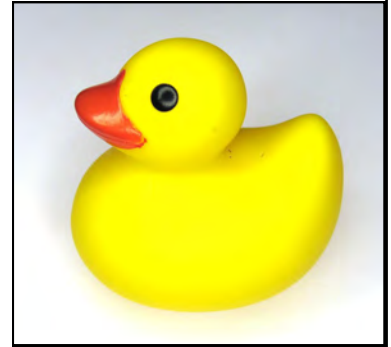


Sandy Feat will be building a sand sculpture on the beach while the kids and their families create their own sculptures to compete in the sand castle building contest. Other activities include a visit to the NC Aquarium,

Lost Treasures Golf, scuba diving lessons with Discovery Diving, and a visit from the Shadow Players Pirates.

This weekend is a chance for the families to get away from the hospitals and to forget they are combating childhood cancer. They will be staying at the Atlantis Lodge and the Hampton Inn & Suites at Atlantic Beach . The hotels and local restaurants give generous discounts to this project, but the cost is about \$1K per family. Donations made to the Mile of Hope Founda-

tion (a 501(c)(3) organization) are tax deductible . Also consider getting involved by joining the volunteers for the day or the weekend. It is a fun-filled, memorable weekend.



June is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Help spread the word. Our thanks to the Cape Fear Optimist Club for their recent Childhood Cancer Fund-raiser. Thanks also to the Northern Wake Optimist Club for cooking for Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill. Also to the Golden Circle Optimist Club for cooking for the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville.

Our goal is to help families cope with this illness by our support for the treatments, care, and research to cure and conquer this disease. Your support makes reaching our goals more possible.

Trish Verne,  
CCC Committee  
Chair



## Allan Ludlum, Web Master

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

# OI Foundation

Jan, my wife, taught school for thirty four years. She always tells me "the more you write, the less they read". After almost sixty years, I'm going to listen to her this time. I have been talking about how good the OI Foundation is for our organization. I still feel the same way about the Foundation and I hope our regular member donors and our clubs continue to donate as they have in the past.

This year my main push is to increase the number of Dime-A-Day donors. For \$36.50. one dime per day for 365 days, you can join this group. At the end March, we had 64 Dime-A-Day members, compared to a total of 62 last year. My goal is to get at least 100 Dime-A-Day members this year, but I can't do it without your help. If you haven't joined, please do so and talk to your club members about joining. If you have already joined, THANK YOU, and please talk to your other club members about joining.

## Golden Circle to Receive \$500 OI Foundation Grant

OI Foundation has approved a \$500 matching grant for Golden Circle's "Darden Youth Improvement" project. The check will be presented to the club at the upcoming District Convention in Ottawa, Canada.

Golden Circle has recently joined with other local civic organizations as partnership partners to improve the school environment of Darden Middle School. This school has been recognized as a priority school by the Federal Government based on their performance on mandated testing procedures and the socio/economics dynamics of the 98% minority student population. It is the purpose of the involved organizations to advance academia, athletics, self-motivation, respect, good-stewardship, beautification, and parental involvement. The club plans to recognize students who are scholars, athletes, exhibit leadership, respect for themselves, and regular attendance. The club plans to work with grades 6-9 (app. 300 students).

The club plans to help finance an annual Academic Banquet, to provide grading period awards and celebrations and to assist with "Doughnuts for Dads" and "Muffins for Moms" to help encourage parental involvement.

The club has just started to work on this project and will continue throughout this Optimist year and possibly future Optimist years. I believe that we have received "a calling" to help the children attending Darden Middle School, which is located in



Billy Edgerton.  
OI Foundation Chair

one of the poorest communities in our area. These children often have parents who do not or cannot be involved in their young lives. Many of their parents are in low paying jobs and may have to work 2 or more jobs to provide for their family. Other parents may have issues which keep them from being involved in their children's lives. We believe that if our community "steps up" we can make a difference in most of these children's lives and help them to make their futures better and brighter.

Golden Circle plans to put time and "sweat equity" into this school and its children. Golden Circle members are very grateful for the matching grant from the OI foundation.



Gary Pender, B&G Chair



Ray Cockrell, B&G Home

## Highest Supporters 2017



Henderson, Thurman Murphy, \$1700



Laurinburg, Tom Brigman \$4030



North Raleigh, J.G. Baker, \$5000

## Contributors 2017 no set amount.



Blackbird Optimist, Linda Shepherd



Elm City, Linda Shepherd



Greenville, Pam Franks



Roxboro, Ed Taylor



South Johnston, Dave Bast



Southern Wake, J. G. Baker



Tarboro, Russell Leake



Wilson Evening, Jimmy Lamm



Winter Park, Sandy Cyphers



# Clubs achieving \$25 or more per member



Chapel Hill, Trish Verne



Goldsboro, Jewel Wilson



Henderson, Thurman Murphy



Laurinburg, Sandy Cyphers



North Raleigh, Rich Cash



North Raleigh, J. G. Baker



Rocky Mount Eve. Tommy Peele



Wilmington, Sandy Cyphers



Golden Circle, Sara Robbins



Jimmy and Janice Lamm, Presidents Donation



Gary Pender, Award for Chairman



Awards, no photos: \$15 per member, Elizabethtown, Whiteville, Wilmington Supper. 10% increase, Henderson, Laurinburg, North Raleigh, Golden Circle. Addition Contributors 2017, Wilmington Cape Fear, NC Optimists Past Governors, Washington.

# BOYS & GIRLS HOMES

of North Carolina



Optimists Make a Difference! I know you are making a difference in your communities and impacting lives because that is what Optimists do! You are also making a difference in Lake Waccamaw for the children that have experienced the pain of abuse and neglect, and need a friend on their side. You are that friend!

The Optimist Cottage is doing great! There are seven boys in the cottage right now. We have relatively new Residential Counselors in the cottage but they have a great working relationship with the boys and things are going well. We are seeing a new trend in the referrals coming to us. There are more and more referrals for younger children - many around the age of 11 - 13. Your Optimist Cottage has been designated as the cottage for these younger boys. It is a great and important role for your cottage.

We are very excited about the pending end of the school year. This is the 5th graduating class from

Thomas Academy, our on-campus charter school, and we are anticipating the largest class ever. We have 16 graduating from Thomas Academy in June - 9 of those are Boys and Girls Homes residents. In the five years Thomas Academy has been in operation, we have a 100% graduation rate! This is great success for our children.

I look forward to sharing some of our success stories with you when we are together in Goldsboro. It is important to celebrate these successes to stay connected to our mission. I will share those during my comments on Saturday. Please plan to stop by my display and find pictures of the campus and needs for the campus, Thomas Academy and the Lake House.

Thank you for Loving our kids!!

*Ray*



Ray Cockrell, B&G Home



Sunset, Lake Waccamaw

## Vice President Optimist International

Fellow Optimists,

Greetings to each of you from Optimist International President Nick Prillaman and from me.

We want to thank you for all you continue to do in serving youth in your communities.” Keep up the good work!

Hopefully, each of you have had a chance to read the latest **“Hotline”** and remember that May is **Optimists in Action Month**. As you are preparing and conducting activities, fundraisers, and special events, please remember to publicize these through your local media outlets, post your event prior to and afterwards on your social media, as well as take pictures to share and include the #OptimistsinAction.

It is unbelievable that we are already in the Third Quarter of the Optimist Year. Many of you have been busy with Essay and Oratorical Contests and this weekend we will hear exciting presentations from our local and talented youth. It is through your efforts and donations that the Optimist International Foundation continues to award scholarships to winners of these contests. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Over the past six months, I have visited all districts in the Mid-Atlantic Region which includes Atlantic Central, Capital-Virginia, Kentucky-West Virginia, Maryland-South Delaware, North Carolina East, and North Carolina West. The many new Optimist Friends that I have met will always hold a special place in my heart. At each district meeting, a wealth of ideas for fundraisers and events have been shared. If you want to talk about some of these, just let me know.

I hope you continue to watch **“Notes from Nick”** each Wednesday and also take advantage

of the webinars being offered.

At the NC East District Meeting in February, areas not being served by Optimist Clubs were identified. Please continue your efforts in growing New Clubs and serving more youth. Your help is needed to return the NC East District back to being **“Distinguished,”** think like The **Little Red Caboose -- I Think I Can, I Think I Can, I KNOW I CAN! Why—Because I KNOW YOU CAN! WE HAVE DONE IT BEFORE AND WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!**

We have five months to achieve our goals. With the summer approaching, it is time to get out and spread the word of Optimism. As President Nick says—**Be Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!**

I am always willing to help so let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Yours in Optimism,

*Lou Anna*



**NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT**

**OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL**

**SECOND QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING**

**Roanoke Rapids, NC**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday, February 24, 2018**

The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

Carey Foster	Governor
Linda Shepherd	Governor-elect
Wayne Sidelinger	Finance Chairperson
Tommy Brigman	Zone 2 Lt. Governor
Jimmy Lamm	Zone 3 Lt. Governor
Russell Leake	Zone 4 Lt. Governor
Ed Taylor	Zone 5 Lt. Governor
J. G. Baker	Zone 6 Lt. Governor
Lou Anna Hardee	OI Vice-President, Mid-Atlantic Region

The following clubs were represented:

Zone 1: Wilmington

Zone 2: Laurinburg

Zone 3: Wilson Golden Circle, Wilson Evening, Goldsboro

Zone 4: Rocky Mount Evening, Blackbirds, Roanoke Rapids

Zone 5: Henderson, Chapel Hill, Wake Forest

Zone 6: Opt. Club of Raleigh, Southern Wake, South Johnston

Governor Carey Foster opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer led by Bill Edgerton (Goldsboro).

Those attending a district meeting for the first time were recognized.

Becky Sykes – Goldsboro

Leonard “Hardrock” Daniels – Rocky Mt. Evening

Pam Franks – Greenville

Sec./Trea. Joyce Leake presented the minutes from the 1st quarter district meeting. Angela Iwaniuk (Wilson Golden Circle) made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Carol Collier (Wilson Golden Circle). Motion was approved.

Wayne Sidelinger presented and discussed the budget which was approved and seconded. Motion passed. J. G. Baker opposed the budget approval due to issues discussed at Executive Board Meeting.

Governor Foster encouraged all to attend this year’s International Convention which will be at Ottawa, Ontario July 8-10. A passport will be needed. Lou Anna Hardee said that a passport can be procured in just 2 weeks from East Carolina University. Jan and Billy Edgerton stated that this will be their 37th consecutive convention, and they’ve enjoyed them all. Ontario is an English speaking province, so no worries about there being a language barrier.

**Committee Reports**

A &A – Chairman Dan Durham recognized the #1 club in each district. Zone 1- Wilmington/Cape Fear, Zone 2-Laurinburg, Zone 3-Wilson Golden Circle, Zone 4-Roanoke Rapids, Zone 5-Henderson, and Zone 6-S. Johnston. The top three Lt. Governors were 3- Ed Taylor, 2- Russell Leake, and 1-J. G. Baker

Boys & Girls Home- Chairman Gary Pender thanked everyone for their support at the auction. Ray Cockrell gave a pep talk for the Home and stressed how important the time folks have spent on the campus is to the kids. The Garner club donated a

Foosball table which has really been used and enjoyed. Three clubs received plaques for their contributions to the Home. 3- Henderson (\$1,700), 2- Laurinburg (\$4,030), and 1- North Raleigh (\$5,000). Almost \$2,000 was received during the Altar Call.

Childhood Cancer –Trish Verne showed a care pack of items needed to help kids get through chemo. She challenged clubs to put together 2 packets per club and provided lists of these items. N. Wake is still working in schools to make 165 Therapy dolls w/get well cards on them. Several clubs are also supporting Ronald McDonald House by providing meals as well as other types of assistance. Remember that June is Childhood Cancer month. Kid-Kaleidoscope will be after July 4 and is always a fun time for kids. We will also be doing the ducks again at Myrtle Beach.

CCDH – According to Angela Iwaniuk, there will be an event at the School for the Deaf involving a \$2500 scholarship. Contestants are needed for this event.

JOOI – Angela reported that Sara Robbins is heading up a JOOI Club at Fike High School. They have been collecting books for needy kids and working at the Ronald McDonald House. She is encouraging kids to attend the International Convention in Ottawa.

Club Fitness – Angela reported that the deadline for filing a 990 was February 15. There is a May 20 deadline for roster of next year's officers and OI Rep. She encouraged all clubs present to get dues paid on time.

Essay Contest – David Bast has no essays submitted yet and the deadline is in a few days.. Several clubs responded that they will be submitting essays by the deadline. This is an excellent chance for kids to win a \$2500 scholarship.

Oratorical Contest – Errol Warren stated that kids in every community want an opportunity to speak their minds. This year's topic is "Where Are My Roots of Optimism?". Names of zone winners are needed by April 27. The district Oratorical Contest will be held on May 12 in Goldsboro at the 3rd Quarter District

meeting. There is a \$23,000 scholarship at the top level.

OI Foundation – Billy Edgerton presented the Dime a Day awards (print and banner patch) to the Goldsboro and Henderson clubs. There was almost \$850 raised at last night's auction, half of which got the OI Foundation and half to the Boys and Girls Home. Several generous contributions came in during the 'altar call'.

New Club Building – Sandy Cyphers congratulated J. G. Baker for his role in the forming of a new club in Lillington. This is the first new club in our district since 2014. The goal is to build 3 new clubs this year, so one down and two to go! The best possible service project is to build a new club. A fairly new concept is called a Club within a Club. This involves recruiting 15 members to the club who have to meet at a separate time or place. They must work on a new, specific project but are still considered a part of the original club. All 15 members have to be added on the same day and all must be at least 18 years old.

Jimmy Lamm, District Convention Chairman, encouraged everyone to attend the meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC this year. It will be held on September 6-9 at Beach Cove again. The deadline for registering is Aug. 6. Any group meals should be 2-4 dollars cheaper per person this year.

Lou Anna Hardee, OI Vice-President of Mid-Atlantic Region, began with the following rally cry that was echoed by those in attendance.

"I believe (I believe), there's a child in need (there's a child in need), sew the seed (sew the seed), we will relieve (we will relieve), I believe (I believe), I'm an Optimist (I'm an Optimist)!"

Approximately 35, 500 youth are served by our district. Lou Anna stressed the importance of honor clubs. She also mentioned the Club within a Club as a new way to do what needs to be done. She challenged us all to dare to be the best member, club, friend of youth, so we can make a difference for our

youth.

Linda Shepherd, Governor-elect, is thrilled about her opportunity to serve next year. She has been going through lots of training and preparation. She is focusing on recruiting new blood and putting them in leadership positions.

Governor Foster thanked everyone for coming and

the meeting was adjourned following the reading of the Optimist Creed.

Joyce Leake  
District Secretary/  
Treasurer



The Elm City Optimist Club held Kisses for the Cure Kids Cancer campaign on May 5th, 2018 at the Food Lion on Highway 97 in Rocky Mount, NC.

Donations given will help support children diagnosed with cancer and research for a cure.



Left To Right: Hunter Upchurch, Toni Welborn, Christie Webb, Mary Ellen Bass

On May 4, 1963, 12-year-old **Ken Thompson of Rocky Mount** won the Optimists' State oratorical contest. Ken advanced to the International Boy's Open Oratorical Contest in Toronto, where he competed against two regional winners from the U.S. and one from Canada. The youngest of the four competitors, Ken and Western Regional winner Robert Wacker were tied for first place after the contest. The judges spent an hour determining that Wacker had won on the basis of speech content.

"Youth's Approach Toward World Forces" was the title of the speeches delivered by all four contestants. Today, the Blackbird Optimist Club of RM is committed to creating a more optimistic future for kids in the RM community. Please visit us on Facebook:

# THE OPTIMIST CREED

## Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear  
and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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

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

NCE Bulletin

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

Published by Wayne Sidelinger

Bulletin Editor.

1104 Windemere Dr. NW,

Wilson, NC 27896

Tel Day 252-237-6778

Fax 252-243-3502

Cell 252-290-2858

Email [wsidelinger@nc.rr.com](mailto:wsidelinger@nc.rr.com)

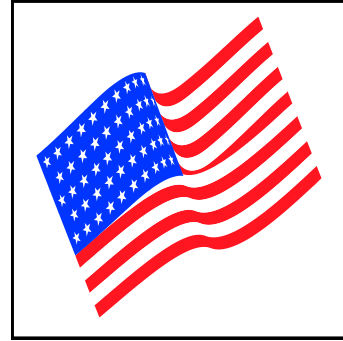
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# North Carolina East Optimist News

