

North Carolina East District Bulletin



3rd Quarter District Meeting May, 2026

Message from Governor Timothy Johnson

Spring is upon us. We get to emerge from the hibernation season of winter. There is activity all around us in nature. The light of morning arrives earlier and the daylight lasts longer into the evening! Temperatures are warmer. More and more people are outside in the morning, and throughout the day. Animals of all kinds are scurrying about. It seems like all of Creation has received the Wake Up Call.

Likewise, We in the North Carolina East District should heed that Wake Up Call. Our 2025-2026 Optimist Year is more than half over already! I can't believe it!

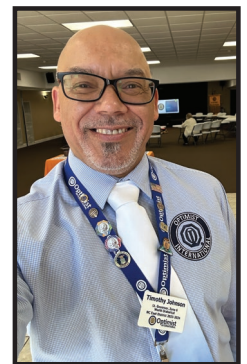
Elections at the Club level should have been held by now and, ideally, those people should be starting to prepare themselves for their roles starting this fall.

The District will select its new team of Leaders and start printing the pump for next year. It's exciting!

We have the Oratorical Contest this weekend. It's one of my favorite events. We will have the results of the Essay Contest as well. Through these Signature Scholarship Programs, we get to hear directly from bright and motivated youth on what Optimism means to them.

We also get to join the Garner Optimist Club in celebrating their 60th Anniversary. What a legacy! I'm so proud of them!

Looking ahead, the 108th Optimist International Convention is coming up at the end of June. June 28-July 2, we get to gather together, close by, in Jacksonville, Florida, to celebrate the 2025-26 Optimist Year and the Districts, clubs and leaders who made great things happen. We also get introduced to the new team who will lead us into 2026-27! I am excited! The International Convention is always an educational, energizing and fun experience. Moreover, it's an important opportunity to meet and reconnect with Optimists from around the world.



Likewise, our own District Convention is only months away! Look inside for details on that!

Thank you for all you do! Optimists make a difference... Especially NC East Optimists!

-Timothy



Zone 1 Update

Bennie Bass, Lt. Governor

Winter Park

Fields, cut tight, raked and groomed and ready for the 2026 Season!



Cape Fear Optimist

Walt Armentrout Award



The Wilmington & Greenville Clubs



Optimists at ECU Science Olympiad

Members from Wilmington Optimist and Greenville Optimist assisted as volunteers at the ECU Science Olympiad high school competition on Saturday, February 28. They were helping out a fellow Greenville Optimist member, Ann McClung, who is the Director of this annual event.

St Patrick's Day eating meeting!



Zone 2 Update

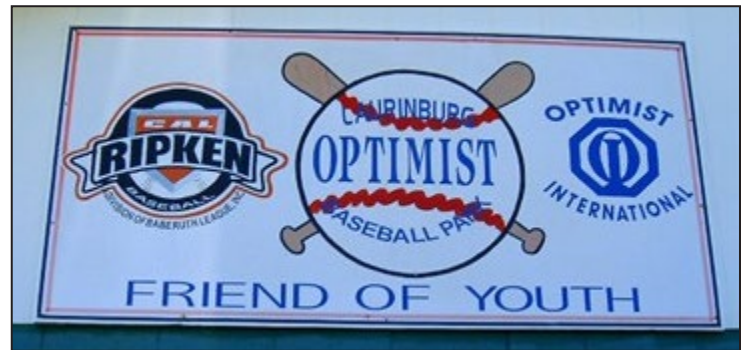
Brian Gibson, Lt. Governor



Chowen-Edenton



Laurinburg



Zone 4 Update

TBD, Lt. Governor

Roanoke Rapids Oratorical Contest



Easter Egg Hunt



Zone 5 Update

David Jennings Interim, Lt. Governor



Our NC East District Zone 5 is doing great things! The Wake Forest club continues to sponsor the Crop Hunger Walk which includes their JOI club. They are working feverishly with Backpack Buddies as well as the Food Drive for Tri Area Ministries food pantry.

These are just a few of the exciting things going on in the zone. Please feel free to share exciting news and photos with me. I love seeing them and each picture brings a smile to my face.

The Henderson Club had its oratorical contest on March 21, 2026. In addition, its second annual Quarter Auction took place on April 25, 2026. The club continues to work with and support the ACTS (Area Christians Together in Service) Food Pantry.

Respectfully,

David Jennings
zone5ltgovernor2023@gmail.com
(252) 204-5160



Henderson Optimist Club
ACTS Soup Kitchen



Henderson Optimist Club
Shake Winners



Zone 5 Oratorical Contest
with Governor Timothy



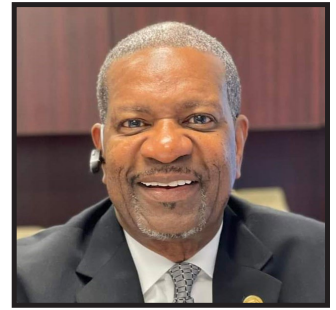
Wake Forest -
Ari receiving Builders of Excellence award
for starting a college club

Volunteering at Tri-Area Ministry
Feeding 2,500 Families /month



Zone 6 Update

Tony DeRico, Lt. Governor



Raleigh
Roadside Cleanup



Garner Optimist
Pork BBQ platter fundraiser! Proceeds go
to support local youth scholarships!



East Wake Club feeding the
Boys & Girls Club in Zebulon



Optimists Make a Difference!!

Zone 3 Update

Robin Murtha, Lt. Governor

The Bennett Club is hoping to have a Kisses for Cancer in May, and they have one new member!

The Goldsboro club had one entry for the Essay contest and tried to get some for the Oratorical, but received no response.

The Wilson Breakfast Club is gearing up for its Golf Tournament on May 2nd.

Golden Circle held a Valentine's Party for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. They donated to the Ronald McDonald House, including money and kitchen staples. Held a Zone meeting in January and had four speakers from East Carolina University Pediatric Hematology. They donated to Artistry Unleashed Dance Studio and put in for a matching grant from the OI Foundation. Also donated stuffed animals to Dee's house. Had five entries for the Essay contest. So far, they have twelve for the Oratorical contest!



Boys & Girls Homes Ray Cockrell – Wilmington

We continue our opportunities for Optimist Clubs to get involved and provide encouragement and gifts for our Optimist Cottage girls. Shout out to Wilmington, Wake Forest and Winter Park for getting us started! Here are the clubs that have already signed up and the opportunities available:

- Jan 29 - National Puzzle Day - Wilmington Optimist
- Feb 14 - Valentines Day - Wilmington Optimist
- Mar 17 - St Patrick's Day - Wake Forest Optimist
- Apr 5 - Easter - Winter Park Optimist
- May 15 - National Pizza Party Day - East Wake Optimist
- June 16 - National Fudge Day - East Wake Optimist
- July 4 - Independence Day – Available!**
- Aug 4 - National Chocolate Chip Cooke Day - Raleigh Optimist
- Sep 9 - National Teddy Bear Day – Available!**
- Oct 31 - Halloween - Golden Circle Optimist
- Nov 26 - Thanksgiving - Garner Optimist

See the link below to sign up. Keep in mind you don't need one of these holidays or assigned times to provide for your girls. Feel free to come visit or provide encouragement any time! Call me!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094FA8A822ABFE3-61646243-2026>



BGHNC traditionally has Optimist Day in the Spring. We are doing things a bit differently this year! There will be two Civic Club Days on campus with multiple organizations attending each. The first one was on March 28, and it was a fantastic day. Our designated day for Optimists will be October 10. There will be other civic organizations there and it will include a workday to beautify your cottage. More information to come! Put it on your calendar now!

I would love to come and give an update to your club or zone! If you are interested in a program – or just a visit – please reach out to me! Ray. cockrell@bghnc.org / 910.840.7107.

Thank you for being Optimists and thank you for loving our kids!!

Optimists Make a Difference!!

Ray



PROMISE YOURSELF

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

-Optimist Creed

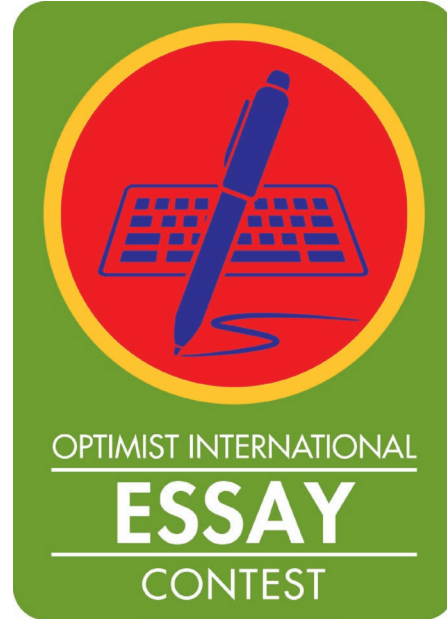
Oratorical Contest Liz Griffins, Garner Club

The Topic for this this year was "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means To Me".

The North Carolina East District had seven contestants for the District Competition. The winner of this year's Essay Contest is Christa Skye Sawyer sponsored by the Garner Optimist Club.

I wish to thank all Clubs and their members for their support of the Youth in this District.

Liz Griffiths
District Essay Chairperson
North Carolina East District



OI Foundation Representative Gary Pender, Goldsboro Club & Sandy Cyphers, Wilmington

Happy Spring fellow NC East Optimists. I am so excited to see the flowers and trees coming into bloom along with all the greenery.

I am so proud to have been a part of this Optimist District for over 30 years.

The friendships I have made are so valuable and important to me.

As with anything we as members are involved with requires time, participation and in some cases financial assistance.

I am not one that likes to, "as the saying" go "hound members to donate money."

However, I see that our District has been gradually declining in its donation to the Optimist International Foundation.

Gary Pender has done a good job in trying to share with you the members, information regarding the foundation and what it does for this organization and just how important that it is.



Without funds donated to the Foundation there would be no essay or oratorical contests. Also, the Optimist Foundation helps fund the junior optimist international convention. Thus, this helps us to continue our legacy and name for the future generations of Optimists.

So now I ask you? Will you help do your part with a Dime A Day \$34.50, President Club, \$100.00, Women's Philanthropy \$100.00 or any amount will help keep the Foundation going and the legacy growing.

Sandy Cyphers,
•Past Distinguished Club President
•Past N.C. East Distinguished District Governor,
•Past O.I. Board Member
•Current O.I. Foundation Board Member



District JOI Club Paige Bivens, Wake Forest Club

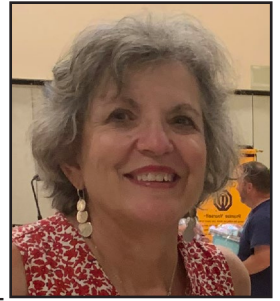
Springing Into JOI

We have renewed our commitment to being a "Friend of Youth" this quarter. The leadership of the JOI Club has had meaningful and reflective conversations on how to execute our mission through their vision.

It is so encouraging to see how our youth want to help each other and those who have needs in our community. Our recent discussion has centered around reaching all levels of children and young people in need. They had proposed 3 projects and could not decide which was the best, so they decided to do all the projects and more. First, they thought that if young students saw messages of encouragement during the end of winter it may have an influence on their lives. They created posters with "Optimistic" words to hang on walls. They contacted children's hospitals, community tutoring sites, and the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club in our town welcomed the posters where they hang today. The next project they wanted to continue was food insecurity, so they are packing more bags of food and snacks for their fellow students. Additionally, they participated in an all-club initiative on a Food Drive

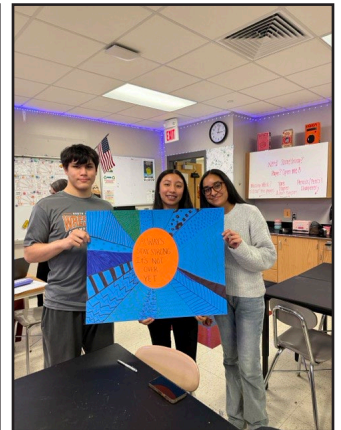
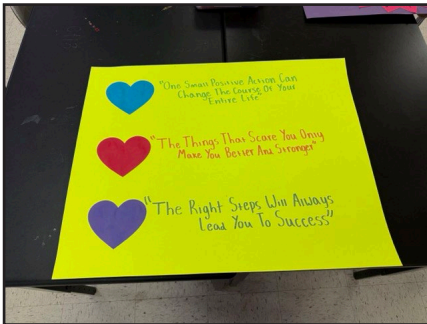


for our town food bank. Finally, they are going to volunteer at a clothing hub, called Note in the Pocket, where families can get a week's worth of clothing and a note of encouragement is in each pocket. They are really making the JOI Club visible both in their school and in our community!



Jonathan and I helped recruit incoming members at Wake Forest High School. Freshman students are not allowed to join clubs until their sophomore year. The school has a Club Fair showcasing available club's students can join. All of our materials were taken, so we are encouraged that we may have more JOI Club members in the Fall.

I am asking each Club in the Eastern District to renew our mission by envisioning a JOI Club in your area. I will be happy to come speak to clubs and help clubs get JOI Clubs started. Spring and Summer are good times to do this so Clubs will be ready to go when schools or organizations begin. Let's have JOI Clubs north, east, south, and west in our District. Let's "spring into action."



Convention Chairman Sandy Cyphers, Wilmington

Don't miss it! Please don't miss it! You will not want to miss it!

What you ask?

The 2026 Optimist International Annual Convention



When: June 28-July 1st.

Where: Hyatt Regency, 225 E. Coastline Drive
Jacksonville, Florida

Training, meeting fellow Optimists, great dynamic motivational speakers, great workshops, entertainment from youth performers, sightseeing, good food, laughs, fun and great fellowship with optimists across the United States and in other countries.

Each Convention is a time for Optimists to renew their commitment to Be the change in leading with optimism, serving with purpose as well as creating a lasting impact!!!!

Come in a day or two earlier or stay a day or two longer and enjoy all the sights and attractions Jacksonville, Florida, has for everyone.

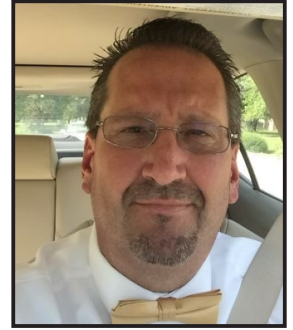
You will return a stronger and better optimist for having attended!!!!

I promise you that as an optimist you will not regret your time and yes, the funds you spent at the convention.

Sandy Cyphers
NC East District International Convention
Chairman

Optimist Junior Golf David C Jennings, Henderson

Greetings Optimists,



The Optimist International Junior Golf Championship is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world. Each year, more than 600 golfers participate in the championship.

Optimists have been involved in the sport of junior golf for more than 30 years by holding local, regional, and international tournaments. The championship consists of qualifiers and culminates with the championship at Trump National Doral Resort and Spa in Miami, FL.

Our NC East Qualifier will take place on June 16, 2026, at Cardinal Country Club in Selma, NC. The address is 363 Parrish Memorial Road, Selma, NC, 27576. Volunteers can report at 10 AM. Look for our tents set up where the golfers come off hole #18. The first year we had 7 golfers go on to Doral. Last year we had 4 golfers make the trip.

If you have any interest in helping with this event, please let me know. I need all the volunteers I can get.

Thanks for all your help.

David Jennings
zone5ltgovernor2023@gmail.com
252-204-5160

THE OPTIMIST 
International Junior Golf Championships

Leadership Development

Rebecca Lakey, Garner



Program Overview & Benefits for Future Applicants

The Optimist Leadership Academy is a nine-month leadership development program designed to identify and prepare Optimist Members who have the potential to lead at the District and International levels. It blends structured learning, peer collaboration, and hands-on experience to build the essential skills needed for effective leadership within the organization.

Application Timeline

July: Nominations requested
Early August: Invitations to apply sent
Mid-August: Applications due
Early September: Acceptance notifications sent

Benefits for Future Applicants

1. Accelerated Leadership Growth

OLA provides structured, progressive skill-building that helps participants grow into confident, capable leaders. Each month's focus builds on the last, creating a strong foundation for future leadership roles.

2. A Supportive Cohort Community

Participants learn alongside a group of peers from across the organization. These relationships often become long-term professional and personal connections that strengthen collaboration across districts.

3. Exclusive Training & Resources

Access to Optimist Institute courses, curated readings, and leadership tools gives participants a deeper understanding of organizational leadership and personal development.

4. Direct Engagement With Experienced Leaders

Monthly webinars and discussions offer opportunities to learn from seasoned Optimist leaders, ask questions, and gain insights that aren't available elsewhere.

5. Clear Pathway to Higher Leadership

Graduates leave the program better prepared—and more confident—to take on District and International roles. OLA is designed to cultivate the next generation of Optimist leadership.

6. Hands-On, Real-World Application

The final in-person workshop ties everything together, allowing participants to practice leadership skills in a collaborative, immersive environment.

7. A Chance to Make a Bigger Impact

By strengthening leadership capacity, OLA empowers participants to contribute more meaningfully to their clubs, districts, and the broader Optimist mission.



Childhood Health & Wellness Ray Cockrell, Wilmington



You can make a difference!! A long-standing tradition of District East is to support child cancer patients and families by providing support to the Ronald McDonald Houses. Shout out to Golden Circle Optimists for their work with Ronald McDonald House in Greenville and the District for financially supporting Ronald McDonald House of the Triangle. You can do it too! Take up a collection of needed items and impact a family at RMH. See the Wish List below.

I have friends and family all across the state that bring me a bag of can tabs every time I see them. Get the word out – tell everyone you need them! Put a collection container at your concession stands. Keep all your can tabs and bring them to me at the District Meetings. RMH makes about \$6,000 per year just on can tabs. We can be a part of this simple action to impact kids and families!
Let me know how I can help you help them!

I stand ready to help where you need me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Hi -

Can you please save your **Can Tabs** for the Ronald McDonald House?
thanks.
:)



How we communicate to you:

Facebook: North Carolina East District
Website: OptimistNCEast.org
Int'l Website: Optimist.org
Email: Constant Contact





RMHC
Eastern North Carolina

House Wish List

The RMHC of Eastern North Carolina provides a home away from home for families of children who are receiving medical care from nearby facilities!

To keep our houses running as homes, we rely on Wish List item donations. Up to 31 families stay with us every night & many more use our common space in the Maynard Children's Hospital at ECU Health Medical Center!

Kitchen Items

- ♥ Individually wrapped snacks
- ♥ Sugar
- ♥ Baking mixes / Frosting
- ♥ Easy mac
- ♥ K-Cups
- ♥ Sandwich Crackers
- ♥ Canned pasta / soup
- ♥ Seasonings
- ♥ Iced tea bags
- ♥ Canned chicken
- ♥ Pop tarts
- ♥ Cereal
- ♥ Microwave popcorn
- ♥ Lemonade / punch mix

Household Supplies

- ♥ Scrubbing bubbles
- ♥ Oxiclean
- ♥ Travel-size & full size toiletries
- ♥ Laundry detergent
- ♥ Bleach
- ♥ Toilet bowl cleaner
- ♥ Furniture polish
- ♥ Copy paper
- ♥ Febreze / Lysol
- ♥ Paper plates / bowls
- ♥ Foil / Plastic wrap
- ♥ Umbrellas
- ♥ Antibacterial wipes
- ♥ Ziploc bags

Gift Cards

- ♥ Target
- ♥ Amazon
- ♥ Visa
- ♥ Walmart
- ♥ Food Lion

Baby Items

- ♥ Diapers (preemie)
- ♥ Infant toys
- ♥ Breastfeeding supplies
- ♥ Laundry Detergent



Deliver to:

529 Moye Blvd., Greenville NC 27834 or
RMHC ECU Health, James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital
2102 Stantonsburg Road, Greenville NC 27834

Contact Us!

info@rmhcenc.org

Membership

Angela Iwaniuk, Bennett



Bring a Friend to Optimist!

Help Us Grow the Power of Optimism

Optimist Clubs change lives every day.

From supporting youth programs to building stronger communities, the work we do matters—and it grows when **you invite others** to join us.

Why Invite Someone?

- ✓ Share the joy of making a difference
- ✓ Grow our impact in the community
- ✓ Bring fresh ideas and new energy
- ✓ Help more young people succeed

Who Would Make a Great Optimist?

- ✓ Community-minded
- ✓ Passionate about helping youth
- ✓ Looking to give back
- ✓ Interested in meeting positive people
- ✓ Leaders, parents, teachers, or mentors

Your Invitation Can Change Everything

Many of our members joined because *someone simply invited them*. Take a moment to think of **one person** who would enjoy being part of our mission.

★ Easy Ways to Invite Someone

- ★ Bring a guest to the next meeting
- ★ Invite them to a club project or fundraiser
- ★ Share why Optimist matters to you
- ★ Forward this flyer



The Optimist Creed in Action

Friendship • Service • Positive Impact

Club Name: _____
 Meeting Time: _____
 Location: _____

Contact - Membership Chair **Angela Iwaniuk** for more information.

Email - ncangel49@aol.com

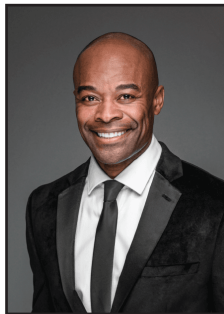
Cell - (252) 280-5050

★ **One Invitation Can Change a Life—Maybe Even Your Own!**

Oratorical Contest Timothy Johnson

The 2026 Oratorical Contest is upon us! We have many contestants from several of the six Zones. Twelve contestants will compete for the District scholarships. The top three winners will be awarded scholarships. The First Place Winner will receive \$2,500; Second Place will earn \$1,500; and the Third Place will be awarded \$1,000.

There are three judges for the contest. The first is The Honorable Jacques Gilbert, Mayor of Apex, NC. Mayor Gilbert is serving in his second consecutive term as Apex Mayor. An Apex native, he served over 29 years with the Apex Police Department. He retired as Captain, after a long and distinguished career. Over the years, he has earned numerous honors and awards, including the President Barack Obama "Champion of Change Award," presented at the White House, in September, 2015; named Town of Apex "Citizen of the Year" from the Apex Chamber of Commerce for 2016; and "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award from Governor Roy Cooper, in 2018, among many others. He has served in numerous philanthropic and professional positions, including elected and appointed positions. He is a servant leader at heart and is dedicated to youth-based and community initiatives and bettering Apex for future generations.



The second judge is Ms. Maxine Terry, of Raleigh, North Carolina. Maxine is a dedicated leader with over 11 years of experience in Toastmasters and a strong passion for personal growth, leadership development, and service. Professionally, she is known for her collaborative leadership style, strategic thinking, and ability to motivate teams to

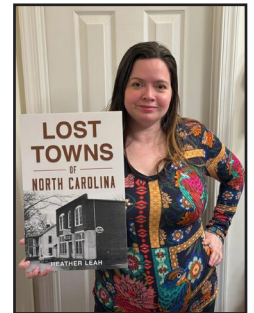


achieve meaningful results through training, coaching, and mentoring. Maxine is a two-time Distinguished Toastmaster, has served in numerous district leadership roles across Toastmasters Districts 37

and 117, and is committed to building strong clubs, developing confident leaders, and creating lasting impact in her community.

Our third judge is Ms. Heather Leah.

"Hidden Historian" Heather Leah brings lost history to life through interactive stories, tours, books, livestreams, and more. A fifth-generation Raleighite, she is passionate about building community through storytelling. She explores everything from ghost towns to lost cemeteries, from secret tunnels through the mountains, to underwater cities. She's passionate about uncovering history that isn't in traditional history books, including amplifying voices of marginalized communities and preserving oral history of senior populations. Her past work includes being the Hidden History Segment Journalist at WRAL TV and ABC11 Eyewitness News – WTVD. She has also been the Historian guide for The Great Raleigh Trolley. And, she has recently published a book, "Lost Towns of North Carolina."



The Optimist Oratorical Contest gives youngsters the chance to speak to the world.

Our Contestants will be giving a 4-5 minute speech on "The Moment I Realized I Belonged — My Definition of Community". Contestants have already competed at the local Club level and Zone level, if applicable. Now they have the chance to earn scholarship money.

Best wishes to all!



NC Optimist District East 2Q Meeting

Roanoke Rapids, NC

Feb 7, 2026

OPENING

-9:34am Bell rung

-Gov Timothy Johnson - Good morning optimists. We are positive, highly motivated, I see you, I respect you, I love you guys. It is Super Bowl weekend.

-Pledge of allegiance

-Opening Prayer - Gary Pender

-Creed - Add "I promise" before each line. We can make this personal.

-Yield the floor to Terry Corle.

-Promote items in the store

-Now use Zelle for online payment

-Presentation to past-Governor Ray Cockrell

-Lt Governor - Robin Murtha and Shana Bunn

-District Meeting-only raffle for Christmas quilt until Convention. Proceeds will go to OI Foundation.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING – Timothy Johnson

-He would like to welcome Pandora and also Tim Mahl.

-Acknowledge past governors - 8 in attendance

-Acknowledge Past OI VP- 3 in attendance

-Governor Minute: I really like the sport of football!

It's exciting to watch, it's interesting to think about, and in a lot of ways, it parallels life. And it parallels being a leader in Optimists!

You have a Coach. He sees the big picture.

He assembles the team. He communicates the strategy and the tactics to succeed. He has studied the rules of the game, he gets to know the players and their strengths.

He tries to motivate them to achieve the goals!

On the field, there's another leader, the quarterback. He implements strategies and tactics in real time. He calls the plays. He receives the ball from the center. It's called a snap. Every once in a while, the snap goes wrong. The ball doesn't get into the quarterback's hands just right.

There's a miscue. The quarterback might misspeak and confuse the center. Sometimes the crowd is too loud! It's "noisy". Outside noise throws them off their cadence... their rhythm. Plus, There's pressure. Someone can get overzealous or, on the opposite end, forgetful... It happens.

If things go well, the ball is snapped to the quarterback.

He's usually tall. He has good eyesight, and foresight, ...

Vision. He assesses the ever-changing situation in the moment. But, he needs to be protected. There are between 3 to 6 people on the opposite team, attacking him every single snap, every down, every play. They're ruthless.

They're aggressive. The quarterback needs his offensive line to protect him, long enough for him to execute the play. What the offensive line cannot do is doubt the quarterback or besmirch him in the media or to the other team or even to their team. They need to protect him, and give him the help he needs, even if he doesn't know he needs it. How many times have you watched a game and the quarterback gets nailed by someone he didn't even

see coming?!? The offensive line needs to protect him from things he can't see, from attacks he's not even aware of! If the attacking forces (the defensive line) get him, it's called a sack. It's a setback. They lose ground. It sucks. They're trying to advance forward, but the opposition is too strong this time. There's a setback.

So, the line needs to be strong and unified, so that the quarterback can execute the play!

Sometimes it's a short play. He hands the ball to someone called a running back. That guy is short, strong, agile, and fast! A powerhouse! He runs right into the muck and tries to advance the team a few yards. He needs to hold that ball tight! He needs to protect it. It's important.

Every once in a while, he might fumble the ball though.

A mistake. Mistakes happen. If that happens, he needs to regain his composure and jump on that ball so the other team doesn't get it.

Sometimes there's a longer range play. A pass. The quarterback throws the ball kind of far to someone called a wide receiver. A receiver. He has to be in sync with the quarterback and run his route the way they planned, prepared, and practiced! He needs to be in the prearranged spot, ready to catch that ball and then run for his life once he catches it! If done right, the quarterback is protected, he sees his teammate heading for the spot, he throws the ball, it doesn't get deflected by the defensive players (whose sole mission is to disrupt things), and the receiver outwits the defensive player, and he catches the ball. Then he runs forward, trying to gain ground before the opposing forces tackle him, stop him from going forward.

In a perfect world, the ball is caught, the receiver runs faster than his counterpart and he reaches the goal line!

The goal line. Touchdown! Score! Success...!

Other times... the receiver isn't in the right place at the right time. Sometimes the ball is tipped. Sometimes the quarterback doesn't throw it hard enough or to the exact spot. Sometimes somebody slips. Sometimes the ball is wet. Sometimes there's interference. The defender cheats. Enemies cheat sometimes, don't they?

Whatever happens, there's a reality in football: They get up. They shake it off. They regroup (huddle), talk it over, and try again. They "Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future!"

Here's what they don't do: Disrespect or berate the guy who made a mistake or fumbled, or missed the pass, or fell down... No! The players get in that huddle, engage each other, assess things, then prepare for the next play! There's only 35 seconds on the play clock before they have to run the next play. If they take too long, they get a penalty, called "Delay of game." There's no time to rub it in! Plus why would they want to make the guy feel disheartened??? He knows his mistake! No! They're supportive and encouraging of their teammate! They want him to succeed next time so the whole team can succeed and win! They want to "Make all their friends feel there is something inside them!" They want to "look at the sunny side of everything and let their optimism come through!"

So here we are, kind of a huddle... to regroup... kind of a pep rally, kind of a time of encouragement, and celebration, and planning, and learning, and fellowship. It's our moment! Let's do this!

AGENDA and MINUTES:

-Adopt the Agenda - Motion Tony DeRico. 2nd from Shana Bunn. All in favor - Aye. Motion carries to adopt the agenda.

-Q1 Minutes District Meeting: Motion - Robin Murtha; -2nd Tony DeRico. All in favor - Aye - Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

-Finance - Terry Corle - approved budget and approved Q1 budget at executive meeting last night. Angela Iwaniuk - has a question about balance. Issue will be checked on and confirmed. Motion to file for audit- Dave Griffiths. 2nd Tony DeRico. All in favor to carry motion.

-Angela Iwaniuk: GOAT Trophy award to Roanoke Rapids - Betty Jo Moseley. Gained 8 new members and \$10 Walmart gift cards given to sponsors. Just ask more than once. Who's your ONE, two or three?

-Timothy Johnson - Team with most players- chocolate football award to Roanoke Rapids.

-New Club Building - Ray Cockrell - Off to a slow start this year. Our quarterback has vision. Continue working on Apex. Our Quarterback wants to work on Mooresville in RTP. Will pursue OBX.

-JOI Clubs - Paige Bivens - Wake Forest JOI Club is rockin' it. Need more than one JOI Club. District past was a focus on JOI Clubs. Starting again to build a club in Henderson. It is a pipeline for our clubs.

-OI Foundation - Gary Pender - Our district receives \$10,000 for scholarships. We should match and send it back to Foundation every year. OI provides endowments, etc. Auston won \$100 for Dime-A-Day for last quarter. Rhonda Cameron won \$100 for Dime-A-Day for 2Q district meeting. \$500 from John and Linda Shepherd. Christian D Larson is \$1,000 to honor a club member.

-Women's Philanthropy - Sandy Cyphers - OI Foundation Board Member - Thanked District for voting her for OI Foundation Board. Everyone please donate via Dime-A-Day. I have been an Optimist for over 30 years. This is for women. Women joined Optimist in 1987. Where would Optimist be without women for membership. We worked together. Fatima from Michigan is our Chairman. The Pin this year is about sports. Our District # is 43. Currently we have 11. She wants to beat Michigan for the "purpose" of this district showing we do care. Everyone who gives \$100 will be in a drawing at the Convention for \$300. Please consider it.

BREAK

-Lake Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home of NC – Past Gov Ray - 'OPTIMIST MAKE A DIFFERENCE.' Thank you

for Christmas. Linda Shepherd started Holidays for the Optimist Cottage. We provided a holiday for each month through Sign-up Genius. Optimist Cottage update: staff apartments and pantry are renovated. Only thing left is the kitchen. Thank you to Sandy Cyphers and Ray Spitz - the kitchen will be renovated. \$500 donation from Shepherds.

-Childhood Health and Wellness - District made a \$250 contribution to Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill this past week. See list of RMH needs. Angela Iwaniuk took over for Sarah Robinson as liaison to RMH in Greenville.

-AWARDS - Gary Pender - Club Banner Patch for Donations. -Jr Golf - Dave Jennings - Date for Boys Golf and Girls Golf is TBD. Thank you to Sandy Cyphers for donating to Jr. Golf.

-Liz Griffiths - Essay Contest - Feb 28 is deadline. Info for AI vetting to come. We had 9 folks participate last year.

-Oratorical Contest – Governor Timothy Johnson - will be held at Q3 in Garner. Has a great lineup of judges. We have until April for District Finalists.

-District Convention – Governor Timothy Johnson - looking at MYB for September.

-OI Convention - Sandy Cyphers - OI Video - Jacksonville, FL - How many have been before? How many have attended training? We have top notch training. Our OI President is an excitable man. Everyone who goes has an amazing time. The District gets to have dinner and fellowship one night. June 28 - July 2, 2026. Please try to go, you will never regret going. Registration will open March 1. Linda Shepherd's favorite session is how to have fun at your club meeting.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

-ZONE 2 – Ray Cockrell updated that Elizabethtown Club is regrouping and starting soccer. Laurinburg Club is killing it.

-ZONE 3 - Robin Murtha - Goldsboro Club did bags for Boys and Girls Club. Bennett did Kisses for Cancer. Robins club - adopted a family for Christmas with extended family living with them. Teddy bear drive for Sheriff's dept with over 2,000 given to date. Next weekend they will give Valentine's Day party. Held a golf tournament in September. Rocky Mount - youth appreciation, cooked lobsters for cancer foundation, Sleep for Peace through Sheriffs dept. Gave 8 security wands to the Sheriff's office and school systems. Bike rodeo. Gave out 5 scholarships last year. Donate to program against pregnancy with boys and girls club. Meeting location TBD but are meeting. Only have 8 members.

-ZONE 5 - David Jennings - Wake Forest Club - Jonathan Bivens – seasonally had Shop With a Cop, help with hygiene in schools and boys and girls club. They reconstructed and built 120 cubbies. Finished installation at end of year. Fixing to do care packages and provide suitcase for kids going into foster care. Henderson Club works with ACTS where they volunteer monthly. Awarded Club essay winners. Getting ready for Attend and Win with all elementary schools - Best Attendance Homeroom gets a party of their choice.

-ZONE 6 - Tony DeRico - East Wake Club - feeds Zebulon Boys & Girls Club 3 times a month for kids who stay

after 6pm. They partner with another club for that event . Q4 bought 5 kids presents. Provided large bags of foods at Thanksgiving and Christmas for families. March 27 - Zebulon Rec Center Bingo. Raleigh Club launched Trees for Triangle for trees going extinct. Great Christmas tree sale. Roadside litter cleaning and Christmas donation drive and also Easter egg hunt and book drive. Garner Club - Golf Tournament on the 28th – donation to Me Fine foundation. Held Christmas parade and tree sales and added 2 new members. February is essay contest. March is annual pork BBQ. Club is celebrating 60th anniversary on May 1-2. Welcome to come out. Friday night of 3rd Q meeting will be a cocktail.

PAST GOVERNOR RECOGNITIONS - Recognize folks who assisted Governor Ray Cockrell last year - It takes a village.

Builder of Excellence - Paige Bivens – Ariana, President of Wake Tech Club - Additional Club Building Awards- Linda Shepherd and Dave Griffiths.

-Challenge Coins and tied diamond knot (friendship knot) to a key to symbolize "the key to our success is friendship, being together and working together.:

Terry Corle, Benny Bass, Tom Lamont, Gary Pender, Dave Jennings, Linda Shepherd, Gail Craft, Betty Jo Moseley, Sandy Cyphers, Liz Griffiths, Paige Bivens, Timothy Johnson, Dave Griffiths, Angela Iwaniuk and Kimberly Cockrell,

DISTRICT MEETING BOOK DRIVE: Timothy Johnson – books will go to READ and FEED. Serves 1,180 children each year. Provides over 39,000 books annually. They read to children, provide tutoring opportunities, feed them and children can select 3 books from their library each session. Amounts to over 75 books per school year/per student. Paige Bivens received OI wallet for most books given.

GOVERNOR ELECT - Dave Jennings - Honored to be Governor Elect of this district. Painful to see membership declining. I am challenging that we all bring one person from our club with us to Q3. Double that for Q4. We must be held accountable to ourselves. This is a close-knit group of people. Attempt to bring 1 person from each club to Q3 meeting. We need to be the ones doing the work. I am humbled to take over after Timothy. I am overwhelmed that we are Optimists are declining. Thank you for electing me as Governor Elect. I do not take the charge lightly.

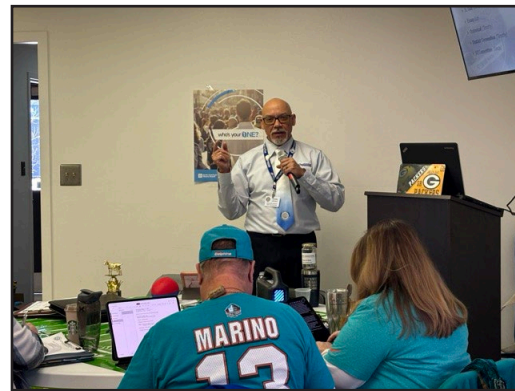
WHO'S YOUR ONE? - Timothy Johnson - Who is your one you would like to bring to your club? You never know what one person will do to help your club flourish. Will give everyone a Who's Your ONE card to remind you to pour into them, build optimist spirit with them. Be present. Give an hour to talk to someone each month. Pray for them. Send positive memes. Show them the meaningfulness of what being an optimist means. Show them what we are doing int he community. We are doing so much around the world and bless children. Some of the

things we are doing to connect with folks. This organization jazzes me up. I tell everyone about our organization.

TRAINING: Optimist Institute provides training. Every club and district officer must complete training each year. Must complete by March 31. Clubs get recognized at different levels which this is one of the benchmarks to be met. -Login to Optimist Leaders. Every year at year-end convention, by-laws get updated. Each club must update their bylaws each year. Just takes a few minutes. The software updates your bylaws to updates with OI bylaws. Needs both Club President and Secretary electronically sign via emails. Very streamlined and easy. -Instead of a Club Pride Report, see Club Project Impact Report at bottom of screen. Timothy took us through an example to post online.

Terry Corles - I urge everyone to take that OI survey, be truthful, honest and forthright.

12:15pm Adjourned for lunch



Q2 ATTENDEES:

Terry Corle
Sarah Corle
Gail Craft
Greg Craft
Diane Keeter
Robin Murtha
Shana Bunn
Roy Barnes
Rhonda Cameron
Nosh Daniels
Dan Durham
Barbara Durham
India Martin
Pete Smith
Lynn Smith
Marshania Barnes
Crystal Smith
Jase Elias
Misty Faloretti
Betty Moseley
Mike Moseley
Anthony Moseley
Carey Foster
David Jennings
Gary Pender
Louwanna Pender
Timothy Johnson
Dannelle Johnson
Sandy Cyphers
Angela Iwaniuk
Ray Cockrell
Kimberly Cockrell
Paige Bivens
Jonathan Bivens
Liz Griffiths
David Griffiths
Rebecca Lakey
Timothy Mahl
Tony DeRico
Linda Shepherd
John Shepherd
Pandora (Friend of Sandy Cyphers)
Brenda Goodman
Raymond Goodman

Always
believe
that
something
wonderful
is about to
happen!

Friend of Youth!



More Q2 District Pix - Thank you to Roanoke Rapids for hosting and cooking!



Draft Budget/ North Carolina East District 2025 - 2026

Account Name	Budgeted Receipts	1st Qtr Receipts	2nd Qtr Receipts	3rd Qtr Receipts	4th Qtr Receipts	Actual Receipts	Difference
#100 Dues	\$ 9,312.00	\$ 2,698.50	\$ 2,072.00		\$ -	\$ 4,770.50	\$ (4,541.50)
#105 Corporate Partners						\$ -	\$ -
#110 Allotment OI	\$ 582.00					\$ -	\$ (582.00)
#120 Dist Convention	\$ 3,000.00					\$ -	\$ (3,000.00)
#130 Dist Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 595.00	\$ 1,300.00			\$ 1,895.00	\$ (1,105.00)
#145 Jr. Golf		\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
#150 Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#160 Optimist Store	\$ 400.00	\$ 461.00	\$ 358.00			\$ 819.00	\$ 419.00
#190 OI Foundation Auction						\$ -	\$ -
#191 Auction B & G Home						\$ -	\$ -
#192 Fifty Fifty	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#650 Transfer Prev Admin	\$ 13,416.00					\$ -	\$ (13,416.00)
#800 CCDHH	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 30,410.00	\$ 3,854.50	\$ 3,730.00		\$ -	\$ 7,584.50	\$ (22,825.50)

Account Name	Budgeted Disbursements	1st Qtr Disbursements	2nd Qtr Disbursements	3rd Qtr Disbursements	4th Qtr Disbursements	Actual Disbursements	Difference
#200 Governor	\$ 2,500.00				\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)
#210 Lt. Governors	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 355.40	\$ 251.04			\$ 606.44	\$ (1,193.56)
#250 District Secretary	\$ 300.00					\$ -	\$ (300.00)
#252 District Treasurer	\$ 100.00		\$ 73.86			\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#255 Governor Elect	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#260 Immediate Past Gov. OI Conv. *						\$ -	\$ -
#261 Past Governor	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#262 B & G Home Chair	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#283 New Club Building	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#265 Committee Chairs	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 230.20				\$ 230.20	\$ (2,269.80)
#300 Clerical/Secretary						\$ -	\$ -
#301 Postage	\$ 50.00					\$ -	\$ (50.00)
#320 Office Supplies	\$ 300.00					\$ -	\$ (300.00)
#330 District Bulletin	\$ 500.00	\$ 291.93	\$ 579.15			\$ 871.08	\$ 371.08
#331 Web Page	\$ 325.00	\$ 371.76				\$ 371.76	\$ 46.76
#340 District Directory	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#350 District Convention	\$ 5,000.00					\$ -	\$ (5,000.00)
#360 District Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 885.89	\$ 318.09			\$ 1,203.98	\$ (1,796.02)
#361 Lt Governor's Conf.						\$ -	\$ -
#370 Oratorical Contest	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#371 CCDHH Contest	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#380 Jr. Golf	\$ 2,000.00					\$ -	\$ (2,000.00)
#390 Essay Contest	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#400 Badges & Pins Officers	\$ 300.00	\$ 446.68				\$ 446.68	\$ 146.68
#410 Awards Current Year	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#411 Awards, Past Year	\$ 500.00	\$ 346.13				\$ 346.13	\$ (153.87)
#420 Audit/Bank Charges	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#421 Audit Review 990	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#430 Merchandise / Optimist Stor	\$ 300.00	\$ 42.65				\$ 42.65	\$ (257.35)
#440 NCB Supplies	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#441 Membership	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ (900.00)
#442 A & A	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#443 Personal Growth						\$ -	\$ -
#444 Childhood Health	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#446 Leadership Develop	\$ 250.00					\$ -	\$ (250.00)
#447 OI Foundation	\$ 500.00		\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00	\$ (400.00)
#448 Boys & Girls Home	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#450 Gifts (Guest)	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#470 Miscellaneous	\$ 2,385.00					\$ -	\$ (2,385.00)
#480 Previous Admin Exp	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#490 Next Admin Exp						\$ -	\$ -
Total Disbursements	\$ 30,410.00	\$ 3,070.64	\$ 1,322.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,318.92	\$ (26,091.08)

* #260 Only if current Gov can't attend

YTD Summary

Total Receipts	\$ 3,854.50	\$ 3,730.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,584.50
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,070.64	\$ 1,322.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,318.92
	\$ 783.86	\$ 2,407.86			
Beginning Bank Balance	\$ 13,416.00	\$ 14,199.86			
Receipts	\$ 3,854.50	\$ 3,730.00			
Disbursements	\$ 3,070.64	\$ 1,322.14			

**Note: A minus number in H means we are under budget
A plus number in H means we are over budget**

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.



Optimist

INTERNATIONAL

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