

North Carolina East Optimist News

Message from the Governor:

Whew! To say I have had a busy start to the second quarter would definitely be an understatement! Everyone seems to know that I love to travel and to get acquainted with new people, and being your Governor has certainly afforded me that opportunity. In the past six weeks, I have attended five zone meetings and visited two clubs: the Laurinburg Optimist Club, not far from our border with South Carolina, and the Roxboro Optimist Club, very close to the Virginia state line. In addition, I flew to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the Optimist International President's Mid-Year Meeting for Governors. While each club, zone, or district seems to differ in some way from the others, it is quite a joy to know that all have the same ultimate goal – that of enriching life for our youth and our communities. I have made many new friends and gotten better acquainted with others I had previously met. Interacting with other Optimists allows you to get new ideas of projects and bet-

ter ways of handling issues that arise within your local organization.

Goals and Achievements So Far:

Although the membership numbers do not look good for our district at this time, I continue to be optimistic. Just as spring is right around the corner, I believe we are on the threshold of growth in the North Carolina East District. Prior to taking office, I set a goal that we would build one new club in each zone and increase our total membership by 100 people! I know that is a lofty goal, but I also know that, with your help,



we can reach this goal. It is vital that we keep our current members, so we must assure that our meetings are interesting and worthwhile and also be certain every member feels appreciated and needed. Please realize how important every individual is in our district. You may be acquainted with that one prospect who has a friend who has a friend who will want to become Optimists. Remember: It is not about adding members just for the sake of numbers; the purpose of growing our organization is to reach more and more children. But it takes all of us working together. There are a number of counties in our district where there is not even a single Optimist club. Through your friends and relatives who live in those areas, you may be the key to the formation of a new Optimist club. Our New Club Building and Membership Chair, Terry Corle, will be eager to follow up on your leads.

Another goal was to increase publicity. Our webmaster, Gail Craft, has been working diligently in this area. With more and more posts on social media, I believe we are beginning to make ourselves known. Continue to submit pictures and articles to your local newspaper every time your club or zone has an event. Consider reaching out to other service organizations in your community for joint projects. This is a very effective way to increase awareness of the existence of Optimists!

In the area of finance, OI Foundation Representative Carol Collier has been working dutifully to encourage us to increase our gifts to the OI Foundation as individuals and as clubs. Our silent auction at the

2nd Quarter District Meeting should go a long way in helping us to reach that goal. In addition, we would like to strengthen our district financially without having to rely only on dues. If you work for a company that would like to be our philanthropic partner, by all means arrange to get us in contact. It will benefit them from a tax standpoint, and it will enable our district to benefit more and more youth.

My final goal was in the area of engagement and training. To achieve this goal, each club was asked to have a Centennial Chair and a Convention Ambassador. If your club has not fulfilled this request, it is not too late. We want to celebrate our 100th anniversary and encourage attendance at the OI Convention next summer in Louisville, Kentucky! I believe we have made a good start on delivering valuable information via audio-visual assets with our short video committee reports at the district meeting. Now let's build some JOI Clubs to get young people started on the path of Optimism. JOI Club Chairman Sam Toler is ready with enthusiasm and energy to walk you through the few easy steps of building a JOI Club.

As I stated last quarter, I believe that we can be the best district in Optimist International in the 2018-2019 year. All of us must do our part. Please don't wait for someone else to get the ball rolling. You can be a deciding factor in determining the state of Optimism in the North Carolina East District! I am...

Forever an Optimist!

Linda Shepherd



This year we hope to see lots of "Linda Loot" in our district! If you see lots of it then it means we are doing some wonderful things in the district!

If you bring in a new member you will receive \$10 in Linda Loot! You may also receive \$10 in Linda Loot if you win a door prize or for an award or recognition during the year.

You are probably wondering what you will do with it when you win it? You can spend it! You can use it in the NC East District to pay for meeting registrations, meals, purchasing Optimist merchandise or just about anything in the district except 50/50 tickets.

It's as good as cash! We hope you each receive lots of Linda Loot this year!

District Centennial

100 YEARS!

Yes, 100 years of “BEING A FRIEND OF YOUTH.”

Working as members in a “GREAT SERVICE ORGANIZATION” providing scholarships, awards, money, food, clothing, toys, school supplies, camps for the summer, ball teams, mentors and coaches. The list could go on and on and on. I can only imagine the millions of dollars and the hours donated by optimist members these past 100 years that have helped to “**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH**”. How can we as optimists not feel good about what we have accomplished these 100 Years.

A FEW MILESTONES OF OUR OPTIMIST ORGANIZATION

- 1911 First “Optimist Club” forms in Buffalo, N.Y. (took 8 years to have the first convention)
- 1919 First International Convention in Louisville, Ky.
- 1922 Optimist Creed was adopted.
- 1923 Motto “Friend of the Delinquent Boy.”
- 1924 Motto changed to “Friend of the Boy.”
- 1928 First International Oratorical Contest.
- 1953 First International Bicycle Safety Week.
- 1957 Youth Appreciation Week observed.
- 1963 Octagon Clubs become part of the youth program.
- 1965 Respect for Law program introduced.
- 1969 Optimist International Foundation formed.
- 1971 Tri-Star Sports Program began.
- 1973 Optimist adopt “Friend of Youth” as their new motto.
- 1978 Optimist Junior Golf program forms.
- 1983 First International Essay is sponsored.
- 1984 “Just Say No” program began.
- 1988 J.O.O.I. forms
- 1996 Optimist float wins the “National Trophy” at Tournament of Roses Parade.
- 2000 Optimist Childhood Cancer Program adopted.
- 2005 First Friend of Optimist signed up.

Our Centennial, Let's Celebrate!

BRINGING OUT THE BEST



INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

2006 First female international president elected.
JUST A FEW GREAT MILESTONES TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE!

More milestones to follow in another submission of the bulletin.

So many achievements, changes and things to celebrate.

BRINGING OUT THE BEST INTO THE NEXT CENTURY....Every Club, Every Member, Every Community...to Extend our Legacy of Positive Impact.

Don't forget the 100TH CELEBRATION INCENTIVE! \$100 to the club in the district that is voted as having the best Centennial Celebration and participation with its members through the end of August. Submit your photos.

Sandy Cyphers

N.C. East District Centennial Chair



Marketing, Social Media & Webmaster

Hi Optimists-

We need help communicating to our members.

We have over 900 members

And

Only 500 valid email addresses.

Please ask all your members to provide valid email addresses. Please have your Club Secretary update the main database on the Optimist international web-site. If you need help - we can help you update the info.

Our Facebook page needs some help too! Again, there are over 900 members and only 229 people like/follow our District page. Have your members LIKE US!

Thanks for all you do.

Gail

communications@optimistnceast.org



Gail Craft District Chair.

Club Fitness Advisors

We are now in the second quarter which means 1st quarter dues should have already been taken care of. Should there be anyone that has not, then take care of that immediately. Clubs should have already set goals to increase membership in their clubs and to make up for any members they may have lost. As Optimist, we all know that the more members we have working, the more YOUTH we can serve.

Russell @ Joyce Leake



Russell & Joyce Leake Club Fitness Committee

CONNECTIONS

LOCAL NAMES IN THE NEWS

Meeting a need



Morton Elementary School was the recent recipient of warm winter clothing and non-perishable food items donated by the N.C. East District of Optimist International. Optimist International is a service organization known as the Friend of Youth. The North Carolina East District collected new coats, hats, gloves, scarves, jeans, leggings, sweatshirts, and other items of clothing for elementary school children. Realizing the devastation to residences in Onslow County as a result of September hurricanes, the organization selected Morton Elementary School to receive the clothing to be distributed to children in need. In addition, Optimists in the district contributed money which was used to buy food items for families as requested by parents via the school's Angel Tree. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

We want to hear from you: Send your note worthy activity and achievement photos to localdesk@JDNews.com. Please be sure to include a brief description of what's going on in the photo along with your first and last name, and daytime phone number for verification.

From left, Kirstin Stiffler, Morton Elementary School an Gov. Linda Shepherd.

First Timers at 1st Quarter Board Meeting



Judy Mooring, Golden Circle.



Cheryl Elman, Henderson

100th Anniversary International Convention

June 30-July 3 in Louisville, Kentucky sounds like a wonderful time and place to me for the Optimist International Convention! Take a tour of Churchill Downs, take a short drive to visit the Ark, meet Optimist Club members from many different countries, and sample delicious cuisine at some of the famous restaurants in downtown Louisville. Experiencing the Centennial Celebration will make this Convention really special. Don't miss out on all the fun!!

Some days are sold out at the convention hotel so don't delay in making your reservation. You can always cancel if you can't make the trip. Optimist International expects a record attendance for the Anniversary year,

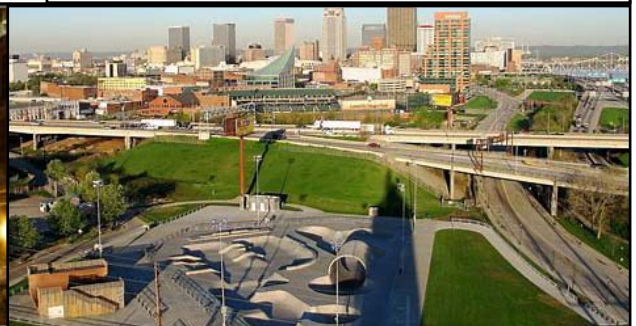
Russel & Joyce Leake

OI Ambassadors



Russell & Joyce Leake

International Convention Ambassadors



Communications Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing



Topic for the 2018-2019 school year is :

"Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?"

Who: The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the U. S. Students must submit the re-

sults of an audiogram completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified Audiologist. Students must be certified to have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram in order to be eligible to compete.

Students with permanent correction should compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest.

How to enter: Interested students should contact their local Optimist club or the District CDHH Chairperson, Brenda Farmer, 252-290-5346 or email bfarmer48@yahoo.com.

When: Students, the deadline to enter will be April 12, 2019.

District Contest: The District CCDHH Contest will be held in late April at the Eastern NC School for the Deaf, Hwy 301N, Wilson NC.

This contest offers an opportunity for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the Communications Contest for the Hard of Hearing offers hearing impaired youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language.

The Optimist Foundation funds a 2500 scholarship to any district that meets the minimum participation criteria.

For Forms:

Club Planning Guide.

District Planning Guide.

CCDHH Contest Application.

Please visit:

<https://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships2.cfm>

Brenda Farmer

CCDHH Chair



Brenda Farmer

CCDHH Chair 2018-2019



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others. Jack Welch

Leaders don't create followers, they create more leaders. Tom Peters



Angela Iwaniuk, District Leadership chair.

"If you delegate tasks, you create followers. If you delegate authority, you create leaders." - Craig Groeschel



goLEANSIXSIGMA.com

District Oratorical Contest

We are looking forward to our District Oratorical Contest which will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Hampton Inn, 5606 Lamm Road, Wilson, NC 27896, at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting.

Each Zone is eligible to submit two winning contestants to the District Level Contest. The top winner will receive a \$2500 scholarship, the 2nd place student will receive a \$1500 scholarship and the 3rd place student will receive a \$1000 scholarship from the District.

Our topic this year is: "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?"

The deadline to submit applications to the District is April 22, 2019. Please send the following information:

District Entry Form

Student Application

Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport

Printed copy of speech

Copy of Student Evaluation

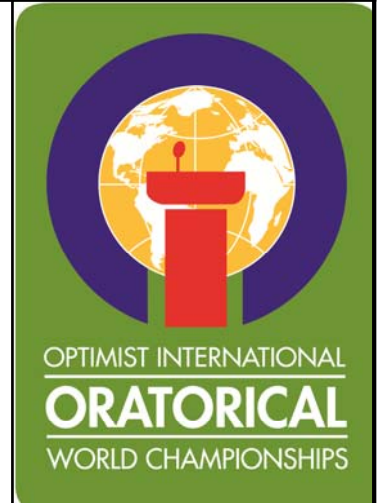
Please send all applications to:

Linda Hawley Isbell
(District Oratorical
Chair)

P.O. Box 114 Elm City,
NC 27822

252-289-7200

Email: linda-



Linda Isbell, District Chair

**A leader is one who knows
the way, goes the way, and
shows the way.**

John C. Maxwell

Photos from 1st Quarter Board meeting Friday night dinner.





Friday Night Playtime



Guest soloist from Southern Nash High School sang the National Anthem .

District Membership



If you or your club added a member this Optimist year we **Thank You**. If not, it isn't too late to add someone now. **Just Ask**

Remember - Membership Matters

For every new Optimist added we can help another 35 youth of our community.

Just Ask



Terry Corle NCB Chair

District New Club Building

WANTED

15 like minded adults from a community
that want to support our youth.

Where do you find them?

- ◆ Sports organizations
- ◆ Church groups
- ◆ Saturday morning breakfast groups
- ◆ Company employees
- ◆ Neighbors
- ◆ Organizations with no leadership support structure
- ◆ Any town without a civic club
- ◆ A group of individuals that just want to do something for their community
- ◆ Teachers from your local school
- ◆ College students that want to add to their resume
- ◆ Military personnel from your local base

Need help? Send Terry an email:

tscorle@gmail.com

A&A Club Winners 4th Quarter 2017-2018

Top Ten Clubs 2017-2018



From left: No. 1, Cape Fear, Sandy Cyphers; No. 2, Greenville, Pamela Franks; No. 3, Wake Forest, Jerry Delbridge; No. 4, Golden Circle, Linda Isbell; No. 5, Roanoke Rapids, Ellen Foster.



From left: No. 6, Goldsboro, Dawn Clark; No. 7, Chapel Hill, Jerry Delbridge; No. 8, Northern Wake, Jerry Delbridge; No. 9, Garner, J. G. Baker; No. 10, Rocky Mount Evening, Errol Warren.

The second quarter A&A Reporting Google Form is now available and will be due April 15. Google Forms allows us to aggregate our information seamlessly to easily see the impact we are having. Some other key changes you might notice:

Items will only appear on the form in the quarters in which they will be reported! Specific dates for the quarter will also be on the form to help guide your memory!

Point values align with the District's primary mission and focus areas!

The form will tally points for you—no need to do the math!

Feel free to explore the form: [A&A Reporting Form](#).

I look forward to continuing to work with you this year; please feel free to reach out with questions: heather.a.bower@gmail.com. Email is absolutely the best way to contact me and will grant you a faster response; please use that instead of my cell phone.

Heather Bower

Achievement & Awards 4th Quarter 2017-2018

Top Clubs In Each Zone 4th Quarter 2017-2018



Zone 1, Cape Fear, Sandy Cyphers; Zone 2, Laurinburg, Sandy Cyphers; Zone 3, Golden Circle, Linda Isbell; Zone 4, Greenville, Pamela Franks; Zone 5, Wake Forest, Jerry Delbridge; Zone 6, Garner, J. G. Baker.

Top 3 Lt. Governors 4th Quarter 2017-18



No 1, Zone 4 Lt. Gov. Russell Lake (Receiving Dan Durham); No. 2, Zone 5 Lt. Gov. Ed Taylor; No. 3, Zone 6 Lt. Gov. J. G. Baker.



Heather Bower A&A Chair 2018-2019

Participation Certificates

Edenton

Henderson

Laurinburg

North Raleigh

Raleigh Dinner

Roxboro

Orange County

Washington

Personal Growth & Involvement

CONGRATULATIONS to the following twelve (12) North Carolina East District Optimist members from the Goldsboro Optimist Club that completed P.G.I. Levels during the first quarter.

Annie Wilson	Levels 3, 4, 5 & 6
Anetta Reid	Level 3
Dawn Clark	Level 2
Raymond Clark	Level 2
Sharon Bell	Level 1
Adore Clark	Level 1
Kimberly Haywood	Level 1
James Murray	Level 1
Demarcus Reid	Level 1
Mary Stevens	Level 1
Leland Walters	Level 1
Lynette Smith	Level 1

This club is doing a great job educating their members about the optimist organization. They have a total of 27 members who have achieved levels within the club. With Billy Edgerton having been recognized with Level 10...Janis Edgerton Level 7, Gary & Louwanna Pender both with Level 7 (I HOPE TO SEE THESE MEMBERS ACHIEVE LEVEL 10) YOU CAN DO IT! Go build a club!

Where oh where are the other club's submissions? Did they get misplaced? Lost in the mail? Or just not interested in participating? (I HOPE NOT)!

Grow with optimism through involvement in the P.G.I. Program. Have fun learning about this organization while continuing to grow personally.

GET STARTED TODAY! You fill out the Passport and information and have your President sign. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 and I look forward to personally recognizing you for your efforts.

Remember the 2018-2019 P.G.I. INCENTIVES:

Optimist members that achieve levels in P.G.I. from October 1, 2018 thru August 30, 2019 will have their names placed in a drawing for \$100.00. Each level that a member achieves during this optimist year will add an additional chance for the \$100.00 drawing. (For members that were already on a level as of October 1, 2018, then each additional level achieved after that date their name will be placed in the drawing)...

Clubs....The club that has the most member's participation and completing levels from October 1, 2018 thru August 30, 2019 will receive \$100.00. (If there is a tie, a drawing will be held to select the winner).

What a thrill it would be for Governor Linda and I to see optimist members from the N.C. East District recognized on stage in Louisville at the International Convention receiving their P.G.I. LEVEL 10 Achievement!!!!

But do not doubt there will also be excitement with the achievement of any optimist member receiving and achieving any of the levels.

I am available to assist each of you to learn, grow and achieve. Call me and let me help you or your club make this program work and do what it is intended to do for optimist members...Grow in Optimism..

PLEASE SEND ALL REQUESTS FOR LEVELS TO ME AND I WILL FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL.

LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST YEAR IN P.G.I...!!!
Get those Passports completed!!!! Obtain a level or two!

Sandy Cyphers,
District P.G.I. Chairman,
2026 Albert Circle
Wilmington, NC 28403



Optimist Junior Golf



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 OPTIMIST. Optimists have been involved in the sport of junior golf for more than 30 years by holding local, regional and international tournaments. More than 5,000 golfers compete in official Optimist District qualifying tournaments. The best of these golfers, along with international golfers from around the globe, advance to the annual Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Our North Carolina East District leads the Optimist organization in the largest number of participants in District Qualifiers. Our district's mission with Junior Golf is toward giving young golfers the opportunity to participate in Optimist International's flagship program. By promoting participation in our NC East District Qualifiers we hope to inspire these kids to be their best while at the same time promoting the Optimist brand.

Optimist International strongly encourages districts to partner tournaments with other junior golf organizations. This year we are pleased to offer junior golfers the opportunity to play in OPTIMIST qualifiers through our partnerships with the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour, the North Carolina Junior Golf Foundation, and the Tarheel Youth Golf Association. We also offer a traditional OPTIMIST Qualifier that is independent of any other junior golf organizations.

I encourage the members of the NC East District to be a part of NC East Optimist Junior Golf. There are lots

of ways that your club can help out. Spread the word about our tournaments to young golfers in your communities. Contact

schools with golf teams. Contact golf courses in your area. Help serve as volunteers at one of our events. Support a junior golfer by paying their registration fee to a Qualifier. Make a money contribution to support our junior golf program.

I am here to assist you in any way that I can to make your club a part of NC East District Optimist Junior Golf.

David Hodges
NC East District Optimist Junior Golf, Optimist International Golf Committee

**THE
OPTIMIST
moves to
Trump National
Doral, Miami,
this year.**





Linda Watson, Golden Circle, Benefactor Award.



Rocky Mount Evening, Leonard Daniels, \$365 Patch.

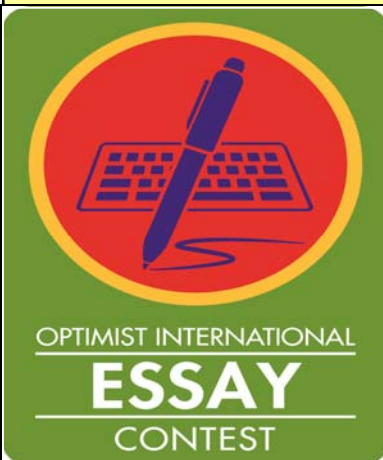


Wilson Evening, Wayne Sidelinger, \$365 Patch and \$500 Print.



Chapel Hill, Linda Shepherd \$365 Patch and \$500 Print.

District Essay Contest



The 2018-2019 Essay Contest has begun. The topic this year is : **"When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?"**

The winner from each club should be sent to me by February 28th, 2019.

Please send your winning entries with a copy of their birth certificates to:

Cheryl J Elman, 920
Barker Road, Hen-
derson, NC 27537

Thanks
Cheryl



Cheryl Elman District Essay
Chair

OI Foundation

Dime a day thru 9/30/18

William Knight – Rocky Mount Breakfast
Walter Pridgen – Rocky Mount Breakfast
Jerry Medlin – Garner
Libbie Medlin – Garner
Isabelle Flock – Golden Circle
Jean Gilfus – Golden Circle
Rose Crowder – Golden Circle
Shannon Simons – Golden Circle
Mary Stevens – Goldsboro
Irvin Dudley – Goldsboro
LouAnna Hardee – Greenville
Curtis Hardee – Greenville
Pamela Franks – Greenville
David Hodges – Rocky Mount Evening
Deborah Watson – Rocky Mount Evening
Leonard Daniels – Rocky Mount Evening
Judy Taylor – Rocky Mount Evening
James Richardson – Rocky Mount Evening
Frank Woche – Elm City
Susan Woche – Elm City
Christie Webb – Elm City
Toni Welborn – Elm City
Ashley Hamilton – Coastal

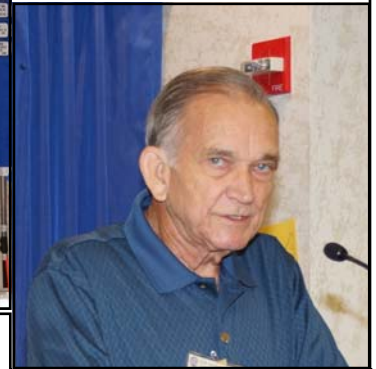
Dale Harris – Coastal
Tammy Pruden – Coastal
Wayne Sidelinger – Wilson Evening

Absent from presentation Whiteville Optimist, \$365 Patch and \$500 print.

Jerry & Libbie Medlin, Garner Optimist
Honored Benefactor \$2500.



Presidents Club Pin
Relmer Keith Cape Fear



Billy Edgerton OI Foundation Chair 2017-2018

I hope everyone has been working hard to bring in items for the silent auction. The profits from this sale will benefit the OI Foundation and the Boys and Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw. Please be sure to place your generous bid on a few of the items on display. Your bid should be written on the sheet of paper next to the item. At the end of the auction on Saturday, the highest listed bidder will win the item. Money raised for the Foundation will go toward such projects as: the OI oratorical, essay and CCDHH scholarships, the Childhood Cancer Campaign matching grant program, the Pass Through program and many other such projects. Currently NC East is ranking very low in participation in the Dime-A-Day program. This is the least amount that you can donate to in order to help fund OI Founda-

tion projects. The Golden Circle Optimist club is well on it's way to having 100% participation. I challenge each club to achieve 100% participation in the Dime-A-Day program. If you do not have a chairperson for this fundraiser, please make it a priority to appoint one at your next club meeting.

Optimistically yours,
 Carol Collier



Carol Collier OI Foundation Chair 2018-2019



Jerry Riggins B&G Home Chair

Optimist Make a Difference!!

You hear me say this all the time – because it is true! Optimists are making a difference everyday for the boys in your Optimist Cottage.

Because of help from friends like you, Boys and Girls Homes becomes a safe haven for our children, a place where they can build trusting relationships with a caring staff; A place where they can heal while preparing them to become happy, healthy and productive members of society.

Our Plan is working! One example of this success is through Thomas Academy, our on-campus Charter School. Each year, the State sets expectations of what our students should be able to accomplish. This past year, Thomas Academy met all of those expectations! The scores for the Biology End of Course exams increased by 19 points! Any school would be excited to see an increase of 6 – 7 points in any given year. And our Math and English End of Course exams had

a 100% pass rate. Given that most of our students are two to three years behind in grade level when they reach Boys and Girls Homes, if they have been going to school at all, this is an amazing accomplishment!

There are exciting things happening at Boys and Girls Homes, including two brand new programs to help us serve children. Stop by my display to learn more about these new programs and to find out about specific needs in the cottage. I look forward to seeing you all in Cary.

Thank you for loving our kids!

Ray



Ray Cockrell, B&G Home



Optimist Cottage Boys & Girls Home Lake Waccamaw

Childhood Cancer Champaign

(New Name) Childhood Health & Wellness

Yes! Yes!! Yes!! We are still collecting tabs from cans so please bring them to Cary. You do the math... 1,279 tabs make 1 pound. They sell for \$1.59 per pound. Last week a local Ronald McDonald House sold 500 pounds. How much did they earn and how many tabs make 500 pounds? This same house earned \$7,000.00 last year from tabs project. This is such an easy fundraiser for all of our local Ronald McDonald Houses. Please continue to support this project.

counted this time of year so the no knitters or crocheters' keep your eyes open!! Thank you in advance for participation in this project to help keep those cancer patients comfortable while recuperating. Those KISU 's are chilly even in the heat of summer. Please bring any collected Bella Hats to Cary!



One story about Bella, I have already collected 92 hats. Thank you Wilson's Golden Circle Club! These hats are being evenly distributed among our area's Children's Hospitals. This is a great

time of year to buy a Bella's Hat in local department stores, Dollar General, drug stores, etc. Hats are dis-

Thank you for your continued support of the different projects for Childhood Health and Wellness.



Sara Robbins

Sara Robbins, District Chair
2018-2019

Boys & Girls Home VP Ray Cockrell earns Certified Financial Planner Certification.

This certification is another demonstration of the B&G Homes commitment to growth. Ray took on this process in addition to his work responsibilities to become one of the 20% of financial advisors to have achieved CFP status.

FP certification is recognized globally as the highest standard in professional financial planning. To receive certification, Ray had to complete 33 hours of post baccalaureate coursework, pass a 10 hour com-

prehensive exam and accumulate 6000 hours of practical experience while maintaining a high ethical standard. According to official estimates, each exam offering includes about 2100 exam participants with an average rate of 64%.

Having this knowledge and experience helps him to see our donor's larger financial picture, which better equips him to help them meet their philanthropic goals. This is good for our donors, good for the organization and, most importantly, good for our children.

Junior Optimist International



Greetings fellow Optimists! As the cold melts away and the hope for warmer weather fills us, let's all begin in earnest to grow the Optimist brand through our youth. JOI clubs are the optimal way to do this! At just \$10 per child annual dues, you can introduce someone to the world of Optimism and sow seeds for our future. Let's face it, none of us are getting younger, but we can ensure the things we have worked for over the years will live well beyond us if we "plant a JOI tree in our backyard!" Join me in this endeavor.

I am at stoler6@embarqmail.com.

If you have questions or wish me to come and assist you in piecing together a group with common interests as JOI Optimists!

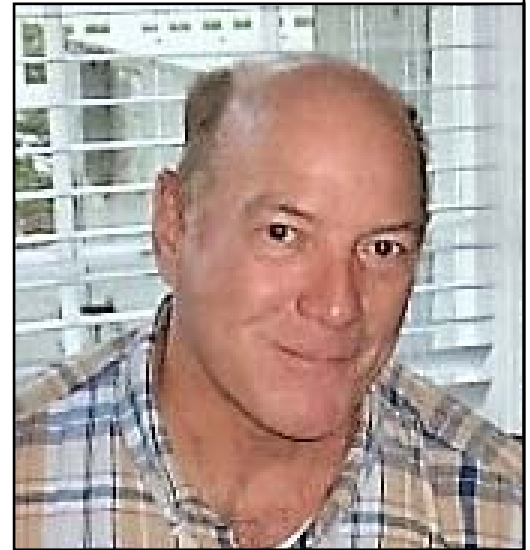


Tevin Jones (L) and Tyson Lynch from the River Rats JOI club helping out at the Rocky Mount Evening club's Christmas tree lot in December).

Sam Toler

District

JOI Chair



Sam Toler, District JOI Chair



First glimpse of the Mediterranean Sea.



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Centennial Commemorative Coin

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation has available a special commemorative coin to celebrate the milestone. The coin, with the 100th anniversary logo on one side and the Optimist International Foundation logo on the other, highlights the partnership between the two organizations in furthering the mission of Optimism worldwide.

This partnership has helped children and communities in thousands of ways: from scholarships to support of Junior Optimist International, to Club Grants and so much more.

The proceeds from the 100th anniversary coin will be dedicated to help the launch of the new Optimist International effort: the **Childhood Health & Wellness** program. This high-quality keepsake will be a 1.5-inch bronze coin, in a blue velour box. The donation will be \$100 (USD).



Please join your fellow Optimists in **Bringing Out the Best in Kids** through the Centennial Coin Program.

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation.
(Enclose check, payable to Optimist International Foundation, referencing "Centennial Coin" in the memo section)

Sign me up! Please accept my \$ _____ donation. Charge my Mastercard Visa Discover American Express

Account # _____ Exp. ____/____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____

E-mail _____

Club Number _____ Member Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Please return to: **Optimist International Foundation** • Centennial Coin • 4494 Lindell Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63108



NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
1st QUARTER DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Rocky Mount, NC
Saturday, November 9, 2018

Marlene Phillips, OI Representative

Gary Greene, Senior Development Director, Boys & Girls Home of NC

Millie Lynch & her mother - Student and Vocalist from Southern Nash High School

Several members of Rocky Mount "River Rats" Junior Optimist Club (with family)

Governor Linda Shepherd called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Jim Hart led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Millie Lynch sang the National Anthem and afterward Jim Hart gave all veterans in attendance a "poppy pin". Jim Hart next led a very touching POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony (Missing Man Table) in honor of Veterans Day.

Governor Shepherd welcomed everyone and recognized all first timers and past Governors. There were two first-timers - Cheryl Elman from Henderson and Judy Mooring from Wilson Golden Circle. Governor Shepherd also introduced Marlene Phillips, our OI Representative who lives in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Marlene will be leading Optimist 100 Conference this weekend.

Angela Iwaniuk passed out the minutes and financial reports from the 4th quarter. Joyce Leake, last year's District Secretary was unable to attend this meeting and Angela asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes and to the financial report. Sandy Cyphers made a motion to approve the 4th quarter minutes and Jim Hart seconded, all were in favor to approve. Lou Anna Hardee made a motion to accept the 4th quarter financial report and Jim Hart seconded, all were in favor to approve.

Next, Errol Warren, District Finance Chair for 2018-2019 went over the proposed budget for this year and answered a few questions. Proposed revenue is \$51,689.63 and proposed expense is \$51,610.00. Errol also explained that certain expenses had been combined in the new budget and a few new line items have been added which include Donations, Linda Loot and Merchandise Sales and Expense to accommodate the Governor's plans for the current year. JG

The following members of the Executive Committee were present:

Linda Shepherd	Governor
Carey Foster	Immediate Past Gov.
Jim Hart	Past Governor
Christie Webb	Lt. Governor-Zone 3
Pamela Franks	Lt. Governor-Zone 4
Jerry Delbridge	Lt. Governor-Zone 5
JG Baker	Lt. Governor-Zone 6
Angela Iwaniuk	District Sec./Treasurer
Errol Warren	Finance Chair & Past Governor

Clubs Represented:

Zone 1: Wilmington Winter Park and The Coastal of Wilmington

Zone 3: Elm City, Goldsboro, Wilson Evening, Wilson Golden Circle and Wilson Bennett

Zone 4: Rocky Mount Breakfast, Rocky Mount Evening, Greenville, Roanoke Rapids, Blackbird and Mahler Thorp of Rocky Mount

Zone 5: Henderson, Wake Forest

Zone 6: Raleigh

Others in attendance were:

Baker made a motion to accept the budget and Ed Taylor seconded, all were in favor to approve.

JOI Club Chair, Sam Toler shared a slide-show of Junior Optimists from Rocky Mount doing several activities, including baseball and camping together. He encouraged district members to seek new opportunities to form new JOI clubs in our communities. Sam also introduced several of the "River Rat" JOI club members and asked them to share their feelings on their club and their activities. They were very motivating and very energetic!

Jim Hart shared the good news of Sam Toler's recent induction into the Rocky Mount Twin County Hall of Fame for 42 years of coaching the youth of Nash County. After a hearty round of applause, Governor Linda presented Sam with the very first of her "Linda Loot" to recognize his wonderful accomplishments.

Next, Dan Durham, last year's A & A Chair recognized the top clubs, zones and Lt Governors from our district for the 4th quarter.

Dan also recognized other clubs in the district with participation certificates and those receiving a participation certificate were Edenton, Henderson, Laurinburg, North Raleigh, Roxboro, Orange County and Washington.

A video report was given by this year's A & A chair, Heather Bowen who explained why she was unable to attend this meeting and she shared some great information regarding the new, on-line A & A report for the 2018-2019 year. It can be filled out and sent on-line for easier reporting and for those who are not comfortable with the on-line reporting, she suggested that the report be printed and mailed or emailed directly to her each quarter. The new report can be found on our new district Web site - under "Membership."

Next, Gary Greene from the Boys and Girls Home gave updates for all the things going on at the home in Lake Waccamaw. The students and the home are doing well, with the one exception being damage

from last year's storm. Our Optimist Cottage came through the storm well, but there is much roof damage to many other buildings on campus. The total damage is estimated at \$120,000 and many have already "stepped up to the plate" to help the home meet the challenge of repairs. Gary also gave an alter call for the Boys & Girls Home.

Sara Robbins, the 2018-2019 Childhood Health and Wellness Chair shared information on how the program has expanded from Childhood Cancer to cover other health challenges that are faced by children in our communities. Sara encouraged members to continue their financial support for the OI Childhood Health & Wellness campaign which will still include childhood cancer research, and other endeavors to improve the lives of children. Sara also invited members to help with her personal challenge for this year, which she calls "Bella's Hats". She shared a very touching story of meeting Bella who was a young cancer patient at Vidant a few years ago and how Bella loved "crazy hats" and how she wanted all the kids who were losing their hair during treatments to be able to get a hat that suited their own personal style. Sara asked members to make or look for different kinds of hats to donate to her during this year. She plans to take 1/3 of the hats donated to each of the three top NC Children's Cancer Treatment centers this year which will include Greenville, Chapel Hill and Durham. Sara has already collected around 70 hats during our first meeting! Sara also had an alter call and received donations for OI Childhood Health & Wellness

Next a video was shown featuring Joyce Leake, OI Convention Ambassador. Joyce gave updates on the upcoming convention in Louisville, KY and asked those who may be interested in taking a bus together to contact her so that she can determine if there is enough interest in traveling as a group to make it feasible. We also enjoyed seeing her "side-kick", BLUE who gave her lots of support during the filming process!

Brenda Farmer, CCDHH Chair next talked with the

members about her hopes to expand the Deaf Oratorical Contest to include more of the "mainstreamed" deaf students and not just the students who attend the Eastern NC School for the Deaf in Wilson. She has already made many contacts to try to reach the eligible students throughout eastern NC and she encouraged us all to do the same in each of our communities. This year's topic - "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?"

Cheryl Elman, Essay Chair next encouraged all clubs to seek out youth to participate in this year's Essay Contest. This year's topic is "When All the World's Problems are Solved, is Optimism Still Necessary?" Cheryl also reminded everyone that February 28th is the deadline for all clubs to have their winning essays submitted to her in order to be eligible to compete for the District scholarship of \$2500.

David Hodges, Junior Golf Chair showed members a new video covering the recent Jr. Golf tournaments in Florida. He also introduced John Shepherd, a member of the Rocky Mount Blackbirds who shared some of his memories from attending the tournament in Florida - one unforgettable memory was getting the golf cart stuck and having to be "pulled out". David also shared his goal for this year is to build a new JOI club with all members of the Junior Golf contestants. David also explained that Governor Shepherd wanted him to begin having an alter call at each meeting and he had his first alter call with one donation submitted.

Next Terry Corle, Membership Chair gave each person attending an Optimist application with a small bag of M & M's attached. He explained why M & M is important - Membership Matters! He shared his goal for this year - it is simple - he expects each member to bring in one new member!

Before taking a break in the meeting Linda's Lt Governor's led everyone in their theme song for this year "An Optimist Can!"

After a short break, Carol Collier, 2018-2019 OI Foundation Chair and Bill Edgerton, 2017-2018 Foundation Chair passed out awards for last quarter

and recognized those who have donated to Dime-A-Day. Carol also shared a video presentation and explained the different levels of giving to the OI Foundation and the importance of the Foundation to our District and had an alter call.

Linda Hawley Isbell, this year's Oratorical Chair next shared information about this year's competition. This year's topic is, "Is There a Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality?" The deadline for Zones to submit their top two contestants is April 22, 2019 and the contest will take place at the 3rd quarter meeting on May 4th and will be held at the Hampton Inn in Wilson, NC. The winner will receive a \$2500 scholarship, second-place will receive a \$1500 scholarship and third place will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Sandy Cyphers, PGI and Centennial Chair, next encouraged us all to work on achieving more levels of Personal Growth & Involvement. Sandy also gave out treats to everyone, which included some old-fashioned treats such as moon pies to recognize 100 years of Optimism! Sandy plans to help us celebrate our Centennial at each of our District meetings this year!

Gail Craft, 2018-2019 Webmaster next shared information regarding the District's new Web site and offered information to help navigate it. She also encouraged everyone to contact her with questions or suggestions.

Errol Warren, Finance Chair for this year shared with everyone that the annual auction that we have had in the past will be changed to a "Silent Auction" this year. The Silent Auction will be held at the 2nd Quarter District meeting in Cary, but the proceeds will still be split between the Boys & Girls Home and the OI Foundation just as we have always done. Errol encouraged everyone to donate nice things for the auction and for us to bid on these items with the motivation that the money raised is for a good cause and not just to try to find a bargain, as we usually do at the regular auction. The reason for changing the auction is in hopes of raising more money. The Si-

lent Auction we held about a year ago in Myrtle Beach was very successful and that is why Governor Linda asked Errol to lead this effort with the assistance of Carol Collier, OI Foundation Chair and Jerry Riggins, Boys & Girls Home Chair. Errol was also pleased to share that Pamela Franks will be assisting as well.

Governor Shepherd gave her closing remarks and there being no further business, the meeting was closed with all members citing the Optimist Creed.

After a lunch break, members reconvened to attend Optimist 100 conference led by Marlene Phillips which lasted until about 2:30 pm.

Respectively submitted by,

Angela Iwaniuk

NC East District Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2019



Angela Iwaniuk District Secretary/
Treasurer 2018-2019

District Convention



Possible convention site.

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.

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