

North Carolina East Optimist News

In times like these we find ourselves asking a lot of questions and are not real happy with the answers. Since March we have had things to happen that we thought were impossible. Schools closing down for three months. Churches not able to have services inside the sanctuary. Colleges sending their students home. People told that they could not work but had to stay at home. No March Madness! No NCAA Tournament! No Baseball! What has this world come to? Can a virus do all of this?

Yes, it can and yes, it did. Will our lives ever be the same? Where are all the Optimists? They too were affected. Clubs were told not to meet and not to even do Optimist travel! 3rd Quarter District Meetings were canceled and the Oratorical Contest has moved its date and now we have learned to ZOOM. Our International Optimist Convention in Chicago has also been cancelled. With all these changes, we are still Optimists

who are trying to put our best foot forward for our kids.

We have now made adjustments so our students have the opportunity to compete in the Oratorical Contest, where they could win a College Scholarship. We are also gingerly putting together our 4th quarter District Convention to be held in Wilmington at the Hilton Garden Inn, September 10, 11, 12. Please make plans to attend. Just IMAGINE, Optimist Strong, Working Together, To Better Serve Our Youth!

Russell Leake
NCE Governor
2020-2021





Bald Eagles in Alaska

International Convention 2020

Virtual Convention – On line

Registration is now open on the Optimist International website!

<https://www.optimist.org/Member/convention.cfm>

iMagine 2020 - Optimist International's **Virtual Convention**
June 27-28, 2020

Early bird registration ends June 8th! (Don't forget to order your t-shirt!)

Early Bird Registration deadline is Monday, June 8, 2020 @ 12:00 AM (CT) \$25.00 (to the first 500 who sign up)

Advanced Registration deadline is Saturday, June 27,

2020 @ 8:59 AM (CT) \$35.00
On-site Registration rates begin Saturday, June 27, 2020 @ 9:00 AM (CT). \$35.00
On-site Registration open on Saturday, June 27, 2020 @ 9:00 AM (CT). \$35.00

Online Registration deadline is Saturday, June 26, 2021 @ 9:00 AM (CT) \$35.00

Angela R. Iwaniuk
Governor-Elect (2019-2020)



Dear Club Officer,

We are sending this message to inform you that all Club Bylaws must be updated to include new mandatory language that was approved by the OI Board of Directors. This language helps us keep the insurance coverage that we offer Clubs at a reasonable rate so that we don't need to ask for a dues increase at this time.

Your Club will find the new Bylaws on the Optimist Leaders portion of the Optimist website after you have logged-in under the Reports tab and midway down the page. If you used the fillable, online version of the Club Bylaws, you will be able to see your most previous version to use as a reference. If you mailed or faxed your Club bylaws to us, a previous

version will not be available to you online. However, you will be able to access and print a full version of the new Club Bylaws so that you will be able to update your own Club bylaws. As with previous versions, all bolded text is mandatory.

We would like for Clubs to have this completed by August 15, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact us at membership@optimist.org.

Thank you for helping us remain in compliance with insurance regulations.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Monschein
Sr. Director of Leadership Development & Club Support.

Candidate Qualifications

As District Candidate Qualifications Chair, I am pleased to inform you that Pamela Franks has thrown her hat into the ring as a candidate for the position of Governor-Elect. If you have participated in district events in the last few years, you already know that there is no one who is more enthusiastic than Pam! Having served as President of the Greenville Optimist Club for three years and as Zone #4 Lt. Governor for two years, Pamela has already shown her strong leadership skills. She is a hard worker who always puts 100 % into every task she undertakes. Being prepared is extremely important to Pam, and she is always ready to jump in and help whenever asked. This Christian lady enjoys being involved with kids and loves to get and give hugs – an attribute that seems to be important to many of us in NC East!



Pamela Franks
Gov. Elect Candidate
2020-2021

Pamela grew up in Fulton, a suburb of Syracuse,

New York. She attended Pitt Community College and Wake Technical Community College where she became a certified dental assistant. She is employed by a general dentist office in Greenville and also is lead manager for Great Lakes Dental, a company that serves the military reserve, screening for cavities and providing necessary treatment onsite at military installations.



Our fun-loving candidate is married to Jamie Franks and is the mother of Colin Mayo, a rising senior at D. H. Conley High School in Greenville. Her hobbies are crafts, photography, sewing, and baking.

Let's show Pam our Optimist spirit of support, cooperation, and encouragement.

Linda Shepherd
Candidate Qualifications Chair

District New Club Building

New Club Building Chair, we have not made much progress. I had been given a few possible places but we have not been able to do much follow up. I did find out recently that some positive work has been done in the Wilmington area and we are Optimistic that we can continue. Should anyone have any leads or ideas please contact me and I will be happy to follow up. We are in the later part of the 3rd quarter.

Russell Leake
District NCB
Chair
2020-2021



District Membership

February 22, 2020

OI Membership 61201
 OI Membership This Year -2914

Mid Atlantic Region 6th out of 8
 No 1 Region -139
 NCE Membership 842
 NCE Ranked 11th -34
 8 Districts are in plus membership out of 51.

NCE District Clubs with plus membership

Wilson Evening +1
 Roanoke Rapids +1
 Roxboro +4
 Goldsboro +5
 Wake Forest +7

Greetings Fellow Optimists! I was hoping to share some good news this quarter, but as you know, we are in a very dark time right now and it's reflected in our membership numbers. Our focus is entirely wrecked right now and unfortunately our kids we normally help will be suffering the most.

Our organization is in trouble with its membership. We are currently minus 2914

members and are down to 61,201 total members. Our District is minus 34 for a

total of 842 members and we are currently ranked 22nd Internationaly.

I'm really at a loss as to what to say/ do right now. I want to be optimistic and I'm ready to see us return to a somewhat normal life, but not sure when that will be. As for me personally, I've changed to a degree, but I refuse to live my life so scared of dying that I forget to live. For anyone reading this that thought socialism was so great, this is just a sample of what it's really like.

Sorry for getting off track, but I'm really irritated and frustrated. Our lives have been wrecked and some folks I know will never fully recover. Good luck to you all and hope to see you soon.

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

Auston Pusey
 Membership Chair



District Convention

Fourth Quarter Meeting Info

District Convention Information September 10-12th

We are Optimistic that the Fourth Quarter District Convention is really going to happen!!

We will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6745 Rock Spring Road, in Wilmington.

The dates are September 10-12

The room prices are as follows:

Single King or 2 queen beds--\$134.00 per night

King Presidential Suite--\$154.00 per night

Be sure and let them know that you are with the NC East Optimists when you make your reservation, and make sure you call by August 14 in order to get the discounted rate.

Some of the activities that are being planned are:

Fundraiser Golf Tournament for the Boys and Girls Home

Past Governor's Banquet, Old Timers' Breakfast

Training for Lt. Governors, Secretary-Treasurers, and Club Presidents

Silent Auction. Agenda to follow soon.

Honor Clubs 2019-2020



Greenville, Governor Linda Shepherd, Pamela Franks, President, LouAnna Hardee, Secretary/Treasurer.



Wilmington Cape Fear, Governor Linda Shepherd, Auston Pusey, (Not Pictured, President William Sebrell, Secretary Kathy Brennan, Treasurer Robin Bass .

Optimist International Foundation



Print & Patch, Wilmington Cape Fear, Auston Pusey



Print & Patch, Garner, Stan Pickett



Print & Patch, Goldsboro, Gary Pender



Print & Patch, Henderson, Jerry Delbridge



Patch, Tie & Scarf, Rocky Mount Evening, Sam Toler



Tie, Scarf & Print, Bill & Jan Edgerton

Tie and Scarf Award also presented to Sandy Cyphers



Errol Warren, Chair

Optimist Foundation

Errol Warren, District Chair

I hope each of you are doing well in these uncertain times. Truly, we must let our Optimism shine as the world around us is facing this crisis.

The Optimist International Foundation continues to work through this crisis and provide support for Optimist International programs and services. Ongoing support of all Scholarship programs continues to be a priority. According to Foundation Representatives, the Foundation will be announcing Club Grants for new projects soon. The Foundation as always is ready to assist clubs with the Pass-Through Program and Club Campaign effort.

Not having 3rd Quarter Meetings obviously is a challenge to our normal way of doing things. But it is important to be aware of the OIF message and its efforts. The good news is that the OIF continues to help kids and communities and it will always be a top priority. Please keep the OIF message in mind and maintain your gracious giving as we move through the coming months.

Thank you again for all you do as we move through this crisis.

Errol Warren

District OI Foundation Chair

Dime -A-Day Members

Auston & Alice Pusey

Deborah Forbes

Donald Loftin

Relmer Keith

Billy & Jan Edgerton

John Byrnes

Kathy Sandifer

George Peterson

Geoff Kirby

Joy B. Finch

Edward Taylor

Joseph Johnson

Nancy Stamper

Sam Toler

Terry Corle

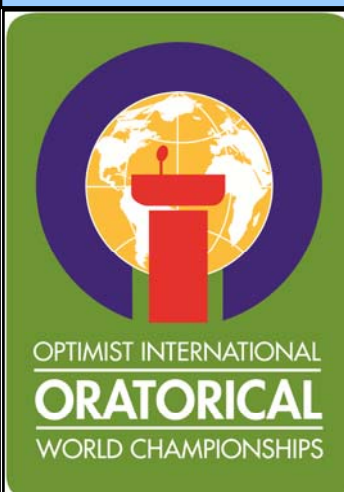
Diane Keeter

Deborah Watson

Sandy Cyphers

Emilee Peterson

District Oratorical Contest



The District Oratorical Contest will be held via Zoom on June 11 at 4pm. Only three of the six zones are competing this year – zones 3, 4, and 5. I am really curious to see from what perspectives our candidates approach the topic this year. “Just imagine a world without bounda-

ries “! With everything that has gone on in this world in the past couple of months, I am thinking

that some of these kids have developed some brand new interpretations of how our lives can be impacted by boundaries. I t will be interesting to hear what they have to say.

Joyce Leake



Joyce Leake District Oratorical Chair 2019-2020

Marketing, Social Media & Webmaster

Hi NC East District Members-

Since we have all this time on our hands (during this bizarre time) - please go into the Optimist International website and check and verify all the email addresses and contact each of your members.



Last year - one President and four Secretaries had the wrong email address....

Also - locally we export all the email addresses and import into a program called Constant Contact. That way we can send information/emails to just the members of the NC East District. These are the emails that you receive from the current Governor's. This year from Russel Leake and last year from Linda Shepherd. Of the 997 email addresses that were exported from the OI site - only 476 were valid... aka didn't bounce.

So, now is the time to go in there and update the email addresses. Some people have NEW email ac-

counts. In all the other cases there are major TY-PO's in the email addresses.

That's what causes all the bounces.



Gail Craft District Chair.

Please verify all phone numbers and email addresses for each of your members. Land lines are disconnected. People change their email addresses, etc.

For the President and Secretary contact info - we (the NC East leaders) use this to communicate with you and to PRINT in our annual directory. Again, we are exporting the data from the OI site.

Please, please verify your information and your members' information.

Thanks for all you do!

I can't wait to start helping kids again!

Communications Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Jan and I were very pleased to be asked to serve as chairs of the CDDHH committee again this year. We started out with great Optimism and enthusiasm, but some of that waned after we met with the director and principal at the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf in Wilson.

Having said that, we can get back to the Optimistic part. It appears that we will have the NC East District contest for the hearing impaired students. With the restrictions placed on everyone because of the Virus, we will only be able to have a very limited number of people. However, I will send pictures and information of the event to be published in the next newsletter from Wayne. In order to meet the distancing requirements, we will have the partici-

pant, his/her parents, the judges, time keeper, Jan and I and probably no one else. We will do the students one at a time and they will wait in their cars until they come in to make their presentation.

This is not the best way to go, but with the virus problems and students out of school, this is the best we can do for this year. I feel very Optimistic about next year.

Billy Edgerton

Distinct CCDHH Chair



Club Fitness

State of The District

Coronavirus Interlude

This is a time in our history that makes it even greater to be an Optimist! I am sure we have all felt the normal feelings of insecurity and uneasiness during the last several weeks that our world has faced the threat of COVID19. We have been quarantined, not because we are sick, but to try to keep us from becoming sick – which is a new concept to say the least. Thankfully, most of us have been able to continue to enjoy life at home, continue to be able to purchase groceries, and take care of our basic physical needs during this unprecedented period of our history. We still have much to be thankful for.

The constant barrage of news reports, the fears of family, friends and neighbors can also influence our beliefs and our attitudes. That is why I am thankful that I have become familiar and indoctrinated with the tenants of the Optimist Creed. Our creed has never been more important than it is now. We are very blessed to understand the importance of being optimistic, especially in the face of unchartered territory and fear. As Franklin Roosevelt said, “We have nothing to fear, except fear itself.”

While our Optimist Clubs have been unable to meet in person and our District has been required to cancel meetings and events – we are still in pretty good shape! Most of our clubs are continuing to stay in touch with members and some are performing community projects such as food drives and honoring health care workers. Our clubs are still doing a good job of staying current on paying their OI and District Dues and maintaining their memberships during this quarantine period. Our district is down 34 members since the beginning of this year on October 1, 2019. We started the year with 876 members and we currently have 842 members.

Being the Optimists that we are, now is the time to start planning for the reopening of our club meetings and projects. Perhaps this time may have shown us that we have important work in the community and with the youth that we were not aware of before and it may change the focus of our work and our projects in our communities. Let’s build our enthusiasm to gain new members to help us, to help our community and to also help the new members themselves!

Our next District meeting is scheduled for September 10-13 in Wilmington – this will be our 4th quarter and Annual District meeting. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that we will be able to meet in person at this time and catch up with each other again! Let’s continue to work as best we can to maintain and strengthen



Angela Iwaniuk, District Club Fitness Chair

our clubs and support our communities. If we each do this – our clubs and our District will continue to survive and to grow.

Our 1st Quarter meeting of the 2020-2021 year is planned for October 24th in Wilson and the theme for the new year will be “Choose Optimism” – our focus will be to renew our efforts and to rebuild our clubs and our district more than ever before! Another great Franklin Roosevelt quote is, “ It isn’t sufficient just to want – you’ve got to ask yourself what you are going to do to get the things you want.”

Angela Iwaniuk
Club Fitness Chair
Governor-Elect



Gov. Linda Shepherd and Her Team 2019-2020





Golden Circle Holds Oratorical Contest

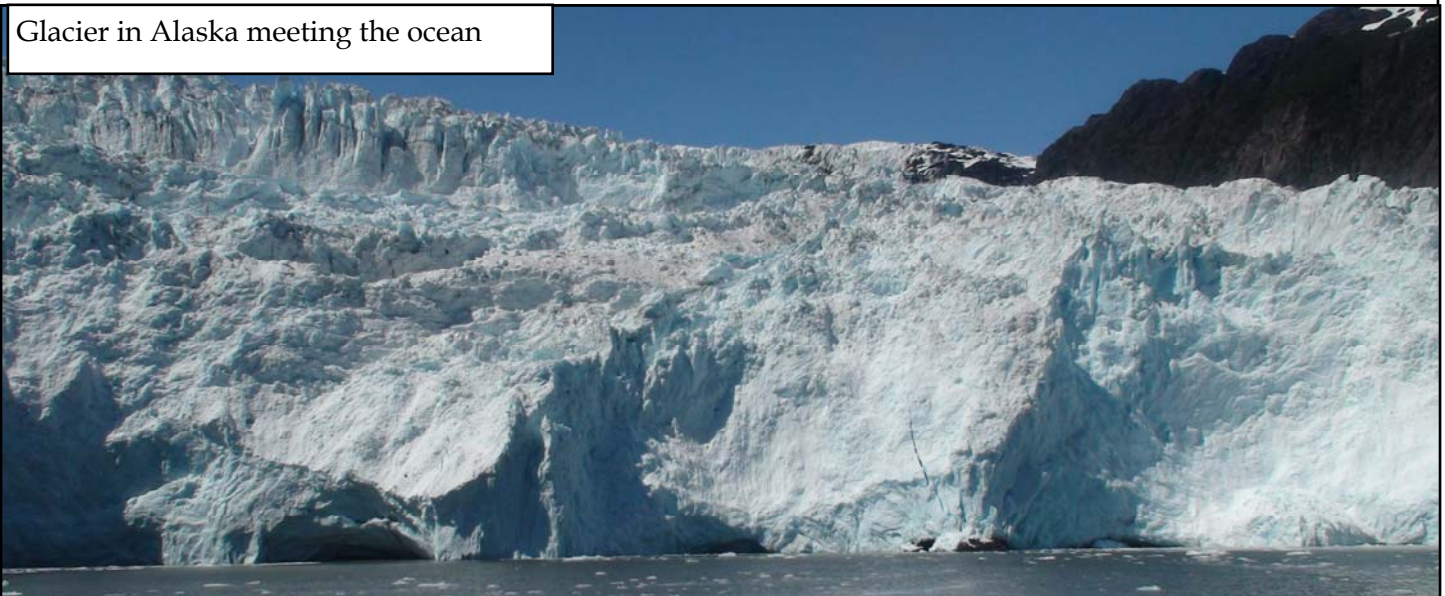


The Contestants at the Awards Ceremony on May 2, 2020. These are pictures from our Oratorical Contest. Linda Shepherd had to hold the contest on-line via Zoom and we gave out the awards in the parking lot of Stoneybrook Church - wearing masks and staying 6 ft apart.



Top Three Oratorical Winners - Left to Right - Left to Right Qamar Javid 3rd Place, Anihya Taylor 2nd Place and Lydia Denton 1st Place. All three of these students attend Sally B. Howard.

Glacier in Alaska meeting the ocean



A&A Club Winners 2nd Quarter 2019-2020



Terry Corle District A&A Chair 2019-

A & A Reports 2nd Quarter Ending March 31st, 2020

Clubs that submitted reports in the order they were received by the chair

Congratulations

Laurinburg #4205

Elm City 43514

Washington #43245

Henderson #43461

A&A Club Winners 1st Quarter 2019-2020



From left:
1st Place Green-
ville, Pamela
Franks; 2nd Place,
Goldsboro, Gary
Pender; 3rd Place,
Golden Circle
Nancy Stamper

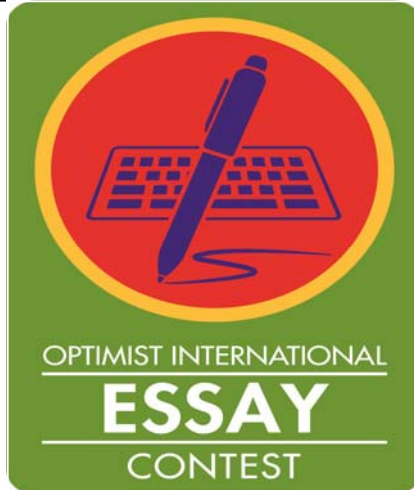
District Essay Contest

I want to sincerely thank all clubs that participated in the District Essay Contest.

Eastern North Carolina should be very proud of our youth. All of the essays submitted to the district were absolutely wonderful and inspiring.

My district judges certainly had their work cut out for them! After much thought and deliberation, a winner was announced.

It is my honor to announce that the first-place winner and recipient of the \$2500 scholarship and



plaque, was Tyleer Gupton sponsored by the Roanoke Rapids club.

The second place winner was Sarah Fox, sponsored by the Wake Forest Club.

The third place winner was Jasmine Richardson sponsored by the Henderson Club

Your time and dedication made it possible for us to reward this scholarship and recognize all participants for their creative efforts.

Thank you again for your part in making our District Essay contest such a success!

Carol Collier



First Place Essay Winner

Tyler Gupton

Roanoke Rapids Optimist

“Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams You iMagine?”

What is the definition of optimism? Merriam-Webster basically defines optimism as anticipating the most desirable outcome of something. I define optimism as the ability to look beyond the obstacles to achieving the desired outcome and the belief that the goals are achievable. As the saying goes, it is the ability to “look on the bright side of things.” The importance of optimism varies among those in society. Some think optimism is not necessary to achieve dream. However, I believe optimistic people are more likely to see their desires come to fruition than pessimists.

Pessimists are sometimes described as viewing the glass as half empty. They may not ever attempt to chase their dreams because they are focused on all the things that might cause failure. Whereas, an

optimist is described as viewing the glass as half full. Being optimistic makes the future look brighter and prompts us to take action to fulfill our dreams. It seems optimism helps us to keep an “eye on the prize.”



Throughout childhood, my parents taught me to be optimistic by encouraging me to set goals for myself, both small and large, as well as instilling me with the confidence that I can achieve them. Words of encouragement are often echoed in our home, such as “if you believe it, you can achieve it,” “Do not take no for an answer too quickly,” and “Do not let your fear keep you from trying.” I am frequently reminded that no matter the obstacle, I can accomplish anything through commitment and hard work.

When I was a toddler, my mom read The

Little Engine That Could to me. In summary, a train loaded with toys for the children on the other side of the mountain breaks down. Various trains pass by, each giving reasons as to why they cannot help. Then, the littlest engine decides it can help. The little engine realizes it is going to be a tough challenge but believes if he works hard and remains committed to the goal, he can climb the mountain and deliver the toys. As the little engine chugs up the mountain, it repeats, "I think I can. I think I can" (Piper 31). The story demonstrates the significance of an optimistic attitude. The little engine was able to look beyond the difficulty and see the possibility.

Another example is the film The Pursuit of Happyness (deliberately misspelled). In the movie, a single father struggles financially to provide for himself and his young son. They are eventually evicted from their home and become homeless. Despite these hardships, the father refuses to give up. He applies to serve as an intern at a stock brokerage firm. Even though it is an unpaid position, he is aware

that one of the interns will be chosen to stay on with the firm fulltime. He works and studies long hours to ensure he is the one that stands out. Ultimately, he gets the job and later becomes a millionaire. This movie reaffirms that optimism can be an essential component to accomplishing our ambitions.

An optimistic outlook has often proven beneficial in my life. For example, one of my dreams is to become a master diver. There have been many hurdles to overcome including my age, the proximity of a training center to my hometown, the availability of dive classes, the dive hours required to advance to the next level, the time necessary to study and train, and the costs associated with the training, courses, and equipment. Despite the significant challenges, I did not abandon hope. Now, I am a certified advanced diver and a volunteer diver at an aquarium. Although there are other requirements to meet, my future as a master diver is conceivable. Several different personal experiences attest that optimism is a crucial component to the procurement of dreams.

Second Place Essay Winner

Sarah Fox

Wake Forest Optimist

There was an eerie silence. Enveloping stillness. Utter darkness, but for one glistening sphere of incalculable beauty. This moment etched itself into human history as the wildest dream of children and adults throughout history made real. The earth from space. Decades ago the dream of space travel seemed like just that, a dream. But with unflinching optimism, this imagination was achieved. Not only did optimism propel perseverance in the space program, but it was the same perspective that brought forth such wild dreams in the first place. Buzz Aldrin said, "One truth I have discovered for sure: When you believe that all things are possible and you are willing to work hard to accomplish your goals, you can achieve the next 'impossible' dream. No dream is too high!" Without optimism we will

never have the key to achieving the dreams we imagine. Optimism helps us overcome our difficulties and press on with endurance to achieve our wildest dreams.



One would think that momentous achievements are made by those who are the most skilled, or the most talented. Yet that is far from true. On June 27, 1880, a small baby girl was born who would defy the misconception forever. The girl was weak and grew up to be not only deaf, but blind. If anyone had reason to believe she could never achieve their dreams, it was her. But Helen Keller didn't settle for an ordinary life. She dared to dream of the things she could do, dared to dream of the unimaginable, and dared to hope for a life defying the expected.

Her Key? Optimism. She later wrote, "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." Because Helen Keller dared to hope, she not only imagined the extraordinary things she could achieve, but she made them a reality. A powerful author, inspiring lecturer, and Bachelor of Arts recipient despite challenges, Ms. Keller showed the world what optimism could achieve. By the time her life on earth was done in 1968, no one could deny the powerful influence her life and optimism has had on the world.

Ms. Keller's perspective on life was one of hope and confidence. That caused her to not only reach beyond her difficulties, but work harder towards her goals. When we believe that something amazing can be in our future, we will strive all the harder to wrap our fingers around it. What good is a dream if we give up halfway through? I've learned this through the numerous half-built snow forts my siblings and I made when I was little which did nothing against the snowballs of our "enemies." Most of the time the fort building was stopped when my siblings or I decided that it was hopeless and that our ice architecture skills never would live up to our high hope. Half-finished dreams are no dreams at all. Endurance is key. Without hope for a bright future and courage to continue with optimism, the world would be filled with half-built fortresses and abandoned goals.

My life has been personally impacted by such

optimistic endurance by someone very dear to me: my grandmother. Although she grew up in what I would say are some of the poorest of circumstances, my grandmother would never say she was poor. Though she spent her childhood picking cotton alongside her mother she always tells me, "We weren't poor. We were rich. Rich in love and family." Instead of giving up on her childhood dream of becoming a nurse because some could say it seemed to far-fetched, little Martha looked with joy and hope upon what she had and what she could do with her life. And when life continued to be difficult as she grew, she still wouldn't give up because she looked on the sunny side of life and kept her gaze focused on the hope of it all. She dreamt of being a nurse, and today she tells me with joy that that dream came true through her daily care for her handicapped son. She inspires me daily to live with the same optimism; overcoming difficulties and persevering towards her dreams she had as a child.

Everyone can imagine. It's in the very core of our beings. But often we fail to imagine dreams that defy the ordinary and fail to achieve the extraordinary. We often choose the cynical and hopeless path when there is another far better way. With Optimism we can overcome the difficulties that come our way, reach for the stars, and persevere till we achieve our goals. Let us live, then, like those before us and utilize the key to our future, optimism.

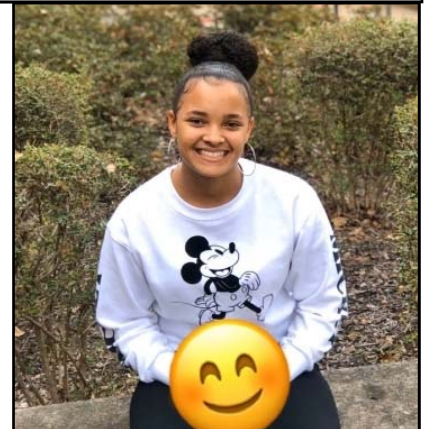
Third Place Essay Winner

Jasmine Richardson

Henderson Optimist

According to the article *What is Optimism*, chapter 7, lesson 19 of *Study.com* (2003-2020), "optimism is a form of positive thinking that includes the belief that you are responsible for your own happiness and that more good things will continue to happen to you in the future." Being optimistic can have good effects on your life. One of these effects is being able to achieve the dreams of

your choice. Three ways in which optimism can help you reach your dreams are being motivated, being able to have confidence, and the ability to make good decisions. Being optimistic can lead to you achieving your dreams through motivation, confidence, and good decision making.



Motivation is a key part of being able to reach your dreams. If you are not motivated to take on the challenges to reach your dreams, you will most likely not even attempt the first step. Being optimistic can motivate you to acquire your dreams by allowing you to anticipate good outcomes. Knowing that there could possibly be a positive outcome will motivate you to keep going and to conquer any obstacles that get in the way. If all you do is think about the negative things that could or will happen, you will not get anywhere. What is the point of even attempting to take on the challenges of your dreams if you think the outcome will not be worth the effort or the outcome will be inadequate? This is what you might think if you cannot see the positive side of situations. Being optimistic is the key to being able to reach your dreams because it motivates you to keep going knowing something positive will happen,

Confidence is “a feeling of having little doubt about yourself and your abilities, or a feeling of trust in someone or something,” according to the *Cambridge Dictionary*. Confidence is also a key piece you need to have in order to reach your dreams. Being optimistic can build your confidence by assuring that whatever you have to face to reach your dreams you can get through because there is a good reason and a good outcome. To overcome the challenges thrown at you in the process of reaching your dreams, you need to have confidence. Knowing that there is a brighter side when the challenges approach you will allow you to push through confidently. You will not doubt yourself as much if you know that something positive is going to be the outcome. Once you have overcome big challenges and the outcome was good, it will likely build your confidence and you will continue to take on other challenges knowing good

things will happen. Optimism can lead you towards completing your dreams by boosting your confidence.

Another key way optimism can help you reach your dreams is by guiding you to make the right decisions. Good decision making is “the thought process of selecting a logical choice from the available options,” according to *Business Dictionary* (2020). Making good decisions can help you reach your dreams by allowing you to choose the right path. Optimism helps you make good decisions by showing you that the outcome of making good decisions can be good. If you make bad decisions, bad things will follow. Also, if you make bad decisions it will be harder for you to achieve your dreams because it will set you back. Knowing something good can come out of making good decisions will encourage you to make more good decisions. Another way being optimistic can help you make good decisions is by being able to clear your mind of the bad things that could happen in the process of reaching your dreams. Having a clear and positive mind will only push you to make good decisions. Hence, optimism will help you reach your goals by allowing you to have good decision-making skills.

In conclusion, being optimistic can help you succeed and reach your dreams in many ways. Boosting motivation, confidence, and good decision-making skills are ways being optimistic can help you reach your dreams. If you are not optimistic about situations and challenges that you are facing or going to face, you will not succeed. Bad thinking means negative results. So being optimistic is a key piece you need to have in order to reach your dreams and become successful.



Pipeline in Alaska

Golde Supports Community During



Donated 300 Food items and \$200 to The Spot in Wilson to help provide meals and snacks to Wilson students. Matt Edwards, Director of the Spot, Angela Iwaniuk and Carol Collier from Golden Circle.



Delivered 4 Dozen Doughnuts to the nurses at Wilson Medical Center to help celebrate Nurses Day. From left: Judy Mooring, Golden Circle, Angelica Bridgers & Keeni McCrary, Wilson Medical Center and Carol Collier, Golden Circle.



Donated over 90 Food items and \$220 to The Hope Station to help provide food for Wilson Community. Diane Keeter, Golden Circle presenting to Linda Walling, Director of Hope Station.



Showered Nurses at Longleaf Neuro-Medical Center with Thank You and Appreciation Cards for Nurses Week. Tanya Rollins, Special Services Director at Longleaf.

^{COVID19} Personal Growth & Involvement

No new news. I still have Passports available and I will happily mail to any club needing them. Once we are back on schedule for meetings my offer still stands to come to your club meeting and presenting a program on the value of using Passport both personally and as a Optimist. Stay safe and Be Strong, Optimist Strong!

Sara Robbins
District PGI Chair



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Hello Optimists,

I hope each of you are doing well and staying safe!

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Optimist International Officers, Board Members, and Staff have been busy during an unprecedented time. Numerous changes have become necessary as well as flexibility in support of the many inquiries and requests from districts. Never did we expect an uncertain time such as we are having.

In response to social distancing and "Stay at Home" orders globally, the challenges have been many. We have seen an extension of the deadlines for submission of club officer elect reports and oratorical contests; recommendations for postponing and/or cancellation of club, zone, and district meetings along with the International Convention in Chicago; virtual training sessions scheduled; and a New Learning Management System put in place. All these efforts have taken enormous energy and creativity to guide Optimists in serving the youth in our communities.

Members have benefited from the efforts of many as we have learned to utilize new technology to stay abreast of changing times and visions for the future. I believe all the above definitely parallel with OI President Adrian Elcock's theme -- iMagine: Optimist Strong, working together to better serve our youth!

I encourage everyone to register for the first Virtual OI Convention where you can attend from the comfort of your home. This is a perfect time for you to choose and attend virtual presentations and training sessions. I am sure it will be an event that you will remember forever.

OI Elections are being held and clubs may cast their votes for international officers and board members; deadline is May 31. In addition, clubs were recently informed to review Club Bylaws which must be updated to include new mandatory language that was approved by the OI Board of Directors. This language helps OI keep the insurance coverage that is

offered to Clubs at a reasonable rate so that OI does not need to ask for a due increase at this time; update club by-laws are due to OI by August 15.

The monthly "Hotline" is a tool to keep members informed of on-going and upcoming activities. I encourage you to review and consider participating in the upcoming sessions below:

- May 18 All about the Honor Club and What it Takes / ICD 135.
- June 22 JUST ASK ... Your membership growth and retention strategy has just found a friend
- Aug. 17 The Professional Growth and Involvement Program ("PGI") - How to Start your Journey
- Sept. 21 Making Sure that the Club Paperwork is Done!

In closing, plans have begun for a great NC East Annual Convention in Wilmington, NC, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. Have a wonderful summer!

Yours in Optimism,

Lou Anna

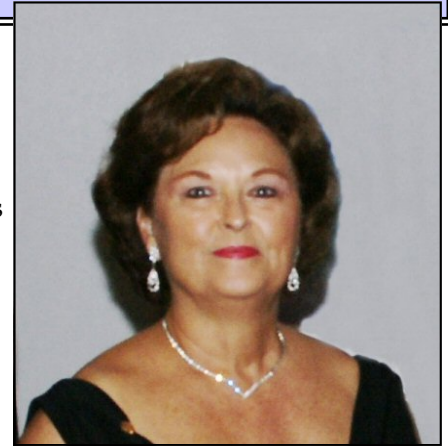
Lou Anna Hardee, 2019-20 Leadership Development Chair

and Assistant Governor

NC East District, Optimist International

email: hardee.louanna@gmail.com

cell: 252-



THE OPTIMIST

International Junior Golf Championships



NC East was on track to have its' best junior golf tournaments ever. I appreciate the interest shown by NC East Clubs in offering to help out at 2020 district qualifiers. I am enthused that clubs were reaching out to young golfers in their communities inviting their participation in our special 2020 events.

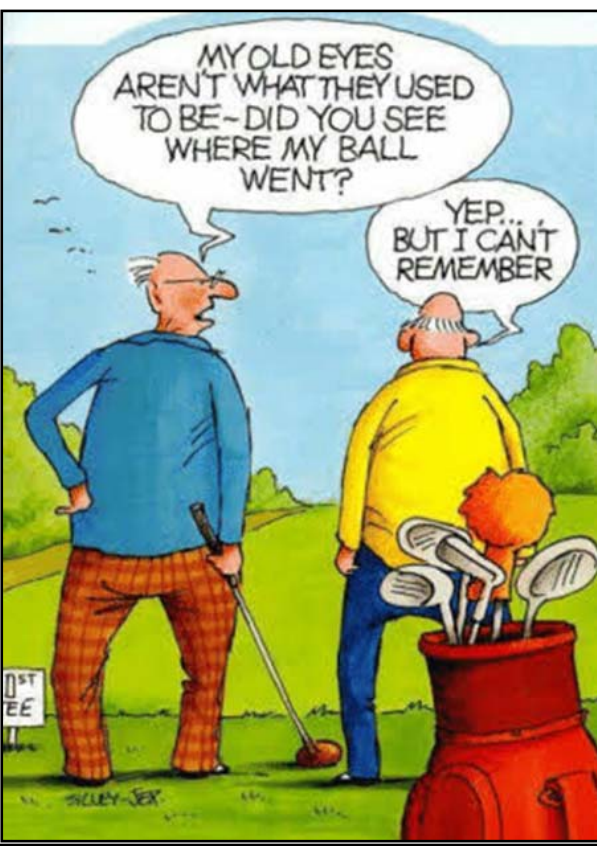
Then came Mr. Pandemic. GOLF WILL BE BACK and when it does NC EAST will continue to be the leader in all things Optimist Golf. All golfers are optimists to some extent. We are Optimists. Once I



David Hodges, District Junior Golf Chair.

got a fortune cookie that read " An optimist is one who makes the best of it when he gets the worst of it

35 12 9
17 23".
Man I wish I had played those numbers in the Power-Ball. Keep the faith and stay safe.



Boys and Girls Homes is Safe and Healthy!

The most important information to share about B&GH is that our kids are safe! Just as each one of us has had to do, we have been feeling our way through this challenge. The priority from the first discussion of the COVID-19 Pandemic has been how to ensure the safety of our children and staff. We immediately restricted on-campus visitors and



Optimist Cottage B&G Home Lake Waccamaw

any off-campus activities. Residential Counselors were being closely evaluated as they left campus and returned for their shift on-duty in the cottage. We were flexible with staff who could perform their work from home and were able to limit exposure on campus for many others. Of course, we have been closely following all recommended guidelines for personal safety and social distancing.

Like most of us, our kids are getting cabin fever and are going a bit stir crazy having to be confined to their cottages and to campus. We have amazing staff who are working hard to keep them focused and occupied, but it is still a challenge! They are continuing their schoolwork in the cottages, worship services are being held in each individual cot-

tage and a lot of board games, card games, video games, etc are being played.

All in all, given the trauma that our kids have already experienced in their young lives, everyone is managing this situation really well. Because friends like you have been with us for so many years, we were prepared to take on this crisis along with our children. Because of you, we have been able to do those things necessary to keep them safe and healthy – and to help them continue the healing process.

We have great friends in Optimist! Thank you for

loving our kids!
**OPTIMISTS
 MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Ray



Ray Cockrell, B&G Home

Three Clubs With Highest Contribution to Boys & Girls Home



From Left: Winter Park, Auston Pusey; Greenville, Gary Psender; North Raleigh,

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Chapel Hill Elizabethtown Goldsboro Henderson NCE District</p> | <p>Past Governors Asso. Raleigh Dinner Rocky Mount Breakfast Rocky Mount Evening Roxboro South Johnston Washington</p> | <p>Whiteville Wilmington Supper Wilson Breakfast Golden Circle</p> |
|---|--|---|

Childhood Health & Wellness



During this time of pandemic upheaval, it has been hard to help our neighbors and friends in the usual ways. Many children and their families are staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses near our local hospitals. While we are in lockdown, the house is not open to those who usually volunteer, but the needs are still there. Donations of masks, puzzles, self-care items, and catered meals are greatly appreciated.

The Wonder Connection project recently held a Virtual Wonderfest. During the First Fairy House Friday Facebook live event, they delivered fifty more slime kits to the patients at UNC Hospital. Their video library on YouTube Channel is rapidly growing with new projects. WRAL featured Wonder Connection on the GoAskMom Blog.

Staying in a hospital for long periods of time can be scary, lonely, and boring for kids. Katie and her volunteers use science and nature to make sure hospitalized kids have fun while learning and healing. Check out Wonder Connection to see some of their projects. They are a non-profit organization that

serves 270 to 400 children at UNC. Donations can be made to <http://www.wonderconnection.org/>

Some of the things that are needed most at the hospitals and in our neighborhoods are masks and "ear savers." I plan to bring a FREE supply to the district convention. The masks are all cotton, washable, with a metal nose band. The ear savers are crochet or cloth strips that have two buttons that you loop the elastic bands around to keep a mask from hurting your ears. If you are knitting caps you may have extra yarn that can be used to make these items. I will have directions at the convention or email me. There are several sites on the internet that have directions on how to make masks.

Until next time, stay connected to friends and family. Save up the hugs and kisses for future visits. Learn how to use the new electronic devices to keep in touch with those you care about. We can find new ways to help our friends and neighbors.

Stay Home, Stay Well,
Stay Safe.

Trish Verne



Sunset at B&G Home Lake Waccamaw

NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
2nd QUARTER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Greenville, NC

Saturday, February 22, 2020

The following members of the Executive Committee were present:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Russell Leake | Governor |
| Angela Iwaniuk | Governor-Elect |
| Linda Shepherd | Immediate Past Governor |
| Carey Foster | Past Governor |
| Joyce Leake | Secretary |
| Dan Durham | Treasurer |
| Pamela Franks | Lt. Governor – Zone 4 |
| Jerry Delbridge | Lt. Governor – Zone 5 |
| Stan Pickett | Lt. Governor – Zone 6 |

Clubs Represented: 15

Zone 1: Wilmington, Cape Fear

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

Zone 4: Roanoke Rapids, Greenville, Rocky Mount, Mahler Thorp Sports Club, Blackbirds

Zone 5: Wake Forest, Henderson

Zone 6: Raleigh Dinner, Raleigh

Total Members Present: 37

Governor Russell Leake called the meeting to order, gave a hearty welcome to all, and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag followed by an invocation led by Jimmy Lamm. There were no First Timers pre-

sent, but there were 11 Past Governors present – Billy Edgerton, Dan Durham, Lou Anna Hardee, Jimmy Lamm, Gary Pender, Linda Shepherd, Errol Warren, Carey Foster, Jim Hart, Auston Pusey, and Wayne Sidelinger.

Gary Pender informed the group that the wife of Ray Faircloth (He is head of the Boy's and Girl's Home.) is battling cancer. A 'Thinking of You' card was sent around for all to sign to show our care and concern for them during this trying time.

The First Quarter minutes were passed out. Joyce Leake asked if there were any questions or changes needed to them. Jim Hart made a motion to accept the minutes and Gary Pender seconded. The minutes were approved. Dan Durham passed out the First Quarter financial report and then made a motion to accept the financial report. Jim Hart seconded the motion and the financial report was approved by all.

Committee Reports

Lou Anna Hardee, Leadership Development, recognized Wayne Sidelinger and Russell Leake by having everyone sing Happy Birthday to them. She then stated that the Hotline from OI has some valuable information, and also urged everyone to keep checking the District website as new information is added on a regular basis.

Linda Shepherd, Candidate Qualifications Chair, announced that Pamela Franks has submitted her letter requesting to be considered to serve as Governor-Elect for the NCEast District for 2020-2021.

Auston Pusey, Membership Chair, stated that our district is currently at minus 10 members. It's up to us to make a difference! OI has lost 1,867 members. On the brighter side, several of our clubs have brought in new members. That is definitely the good news!

Gary Pender, Boys and Girls Home chair, said that giving to the Home has decreased, but the needs are just as great. Ray Cockrell, Boys and Girls Home campus contact (and cheerleader) had everyone repeat after him several times, "Optimists Make a Difference!" He also stated that numerous clubs have supported the Home and certificates were presented to each one. The three top contributors were as follows: 3rd place – Wilmington, 2nd place – N. Raleigh, and 1st place – Winter Park. Certificates are available for the Walt Armentrout Foundation. Several generous gifts were presented at the Altar Call.

Angela Iwaniuk, Club Fitness chair, went over a list of ways that you can measure how fit your club is. It is extremely important to create enthusiasm in your club. As Governor-elect, Angela has just finished her training, and she is now looking for some enthusiastic people who are interested in being committee chairs for next year. Please let her know if you are interested!

Terry Corle, A & A chair, stated that of 36 clubs, only 10 sent in an A & A report last quarter. The top three clubs were Greenville, Goldsboro, and Golden Circle.

Joyce Leake, Oratorical Chair, gave May 9 as the District Oratorical contest date. It will be in Goldsboro at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Pamela Franks congratulated Carey Foster for being Grand Marshall of the Roanoke Rapids Christmas Parade. Carey was honored for his athletic achievements in high school and college as well as his long history of Optimism.

Break

Errol Warren, OI Foundation Chair, showed the neck ties and scarves that OI is giving to those who donated \$250 or more to the Foundation. Errol was sporting his tie and our own Jan Edgerton did a marvelous job of modeling her scarf. A print was also given

to those who contributed \$500 or more. Errol gave a review of all of the good things the OI does with the money donated to the Foundation. Much of this money benefits us locally. There were 19 Dime-a-day contributors, all of whom were recognized with pins. The following clubs were presented a print and a patch: Wilmington/Cape Fear, Garner, Goldsboro, and Henderson. Rocky Mount Evening received a patch, and Billy and Jan Edgerton received a print, tie, and scarf. At the altar call, Wayne Sidelinger, Brenda Farmer, and Curtis Hardee all made generous contributions. Errol finally stressed the importance of district meetings and how they should be like pep rallies for us, and then we should carry our enthusiasm back to our local clubs.

Jim Hart, Convention Chair, stated that room rates are currently an issue but work is ongoing.

Carol Collier, Essay Chair, let us know that the winner of the essay competition will be notified somewhere between April 15 and June 1.

Billy Edgerton, CCDHH Chair, shared that the Wilson School for the Deaf has decided not to participate in the contest, so students in local schools as well as one church will provide candidates for this contest. One of these kids deserves to win this \$2500 scholarship!

David Hodges, Junior Golf Chair, announced that three tournaments are currently scheduled: April 4-5 in Greenville, April 11 in Rocky Mount, and May 16-17 (1st Tee) in New Bern. More information is available on these tournaments in the bulletin. Our district has had three to win the Hugh Cranford Award which is the highest award offered by OI. About 600 kids become JOI Club members as a result of Jr. Golf.

Sam Toler, JOI Club Chair, said that more focus is needed on this area. Eight members are all that's needed to start a club, and it only cost \$10 a year for each kid. They have energy and enthusiasm that is

infectious, so let's all do a better job of reaching out to them.

Carey Foster, OI Convention Ambassador, gave June 28-July 1 in Schaumburg, Ill as the time and place for this year's convention. He also recommended making hotel reservations earlier rather than later.

Russell Leake, New Club Building chair, suggested the Lake Gaston area and the Outer Banks as areas to consider for new clubs. We could possibly also have telecom clubs. OI is willing to put new club builders up for a night if needed.

Sara Robbins, Personal Growth and Involvement Chair, was unable to be with us due to the death of a dear friend, but Linda Shepherd has information if anyone is interested.

The meeting closed with the creed and then a blessing by Billy Edgerton followed by a buffet luncheon.

Immediate Past Governor, Linda Shepherd encouraged us to look at the Facebook page to see lots of picture of last year's activities. She then presented really cool stadium blankets as gifts to those who served on her team during her tenure as governor.

Lou Anna Hardee, Assistant Governor, ended the day's events by showing an inspiring video from OI that stressed why Optimism is so important.

Governor Leake then adjourned the 2nd Quarter District Meeting.

Joyce Leake
District Secretary



Junior Optimist International



JOI Club in Rocky Mount on
A camping trip.

Just a short blurb from myself to say that even though we are confined to stay near our nests, we should seize the opportunity to get out and enjoy what's on the other side of our front door! Our Jr Optimist group is making the most of these difficult

times, camping in the back yard, canoeing and fishing.

While this may not be your cup of tea, it is an opportune time to cobble together a small group of 10

or less and help them shake off the cabin fever! This could mean simply going on a nature walk at a nearby park or taking their dogs out for a collective frolic at the local dog park. Let's turn this adversity into gain and help our youth (and ourselves!) come together by forming a new JOI club this quarter

Contact me and I'll help you get things started. Stay healthy, and I hope to hear from you soon!

Sam Toler



Sam Toler, District JOI Chair

North Carolina East District - Optimist International
Financial Report - 10/01/2019 - 2/29/20

4/14/2020

| Receipts | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Acct # | Account Name | 1st Qtr | 2nd Qtr | 3rd Qtr | 4th Qtr | YTD | Budget |
| 100 | Dues [H] | \$3,902.50 | \$6,931.00 | | | \$10,833.50 | \$13,140.00 |
| 110 | Allotment from OI [G] | | \$301.00 | | | \$301.00 | \$0.00 |
| 120 | District Convention [A] | | | | | | \$711.00 |
| 130 | District Meetings [B] | \$970.00 | \$2,078.00 | | | \$3,048.00 | \$9,848.50 |
| 145 | Jr. Golf [D] | | | | | | \$3,407.00 |
| 146 | OI Foundation - Auction | | | | | | \$10,079.80 |
| 147 | B&G Homes - Auction | | | | | | \$82.00 |
| 150 | Miscellaneous Receipts | \$101.00 | | | | \$101.00 | \$0.00 |
| 155 | Linda Loot | | | | | | \$500.00 |
| 160 | Merchandise Sales | | | | | | \$500.00 |
| 170 | Donations | | | | | | \$400.00 |
| 190 | Other - fifty fifty | | | | | | \$0.00 |
| | Subtotal Receipts | \$4,973.50 | \$9,310.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$14,283.50 | \$38,668.30 |
| 650 | Transfer from Prev Adm | | | | | | \$12,338.05 |
| | Total Receipts | \$4,973.50 | \$9,310.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$14,283.50 | \$51,006.35 |
| Disbursements | | | | | | | |
| Acct # | Account Name | 1st Qtr | 2nd Qtr | 3rd Qtr | 4th Qtr | YTD | Budget |
| 200 | Governor | \$271.68 | \$524.88 | | | \$796.56 | \$2,000.00 |
| 210 | Lt. Governors [F] | \$151.28 | \$221.84 | | | \$373.12 | \$4,414.00 |
| 250 | Secretary/Treasurer | | | | | | \$600.00 |
| 255 | Governor Elect | | | | | | \$1,000.00 |
| 260 | Immediate Past Governor(0) | | | | | | \$0.00 |
| 261 | Past Governor (0) | | | | | | \$150.00 |
| 262 | B&G Chair Travel to G&B Home | | | | | | \$150.00 |
| 263 | NCB ChairPerson | | | | | | \$0.00 |
| 265 | Committ Chairs (N) | | \$60.00 | | | \$60.00 | \$7,203.04 |
| 300 | Clerical / Secretary | | | | | | \$25.00 |
| 301 | Postage | | | | | | \$30.00 |
| 320 | Office Supplies | | | | | | \$60.00 |
| 330 | District Bulletin | | | | | | \$650.00 |
| 331 | Web Page | | | | | | \$200.00 |
| 340 | District Directory | \$554.74 | | | | \$554.74 | \$575.00 |
| 350 | District Committee (A) | | | | | | \$575.00 |
| 360 | District Meeting (B) | \$537.23 | \$1,475.96 | | | \$2,013.19 | \$6,615.48 |
| 361 | Lt Governor Conference | | | | | | \$400.00 |
| 370 | Oratorial | | | | | | \$1,200.00 |
| 371 | CCDHH (K) | | | | | | \$200.00 |
| 380 | Jr. Golf (d) | | | | | | \$10,000.00 |
| 390 | Essay | | | | | | \$150.00 |
| 400 | Badges & Pins/Officers | \$298.40 | | | | \$298.40 | \$800.00 |
| 410 | Awards, Current Year (J) | | | | | | \$200.00 |
| 411 | Awards Past Year (J) | | \$986.81 | | | \$986.81 | \$1,000.00 |
| 420 | Audit/Bank Charges | \$7.50 | | | | \$7.50 | \$0.00 |
| 421 | Audit/Review/990 | | | | | | \$100.00 |
| 430 | Merchandise Expenses | | | | | | \$430.00 |
| 441 | Membership Promotion | | | | | | \$600.00 |
| 442 | A&A Awards | | | | | | \$100.00 |
| 443 | Personal Growth | | | | | | \$25.00 |
| 444 | Childhood Health Wellness CCC | | | | | | \$25.00 |
| 445 | New Club Building | | | | | | \$100.00 |
| 446 | Leadership Development | | | | | | \$400.00 |
| 447 | OI Foundation | | \$21.31 | | | \$21.31 | \$500.00 |

Report of Budget

North Carolina East District - Optimist International
1st Quarter Financial Report - 10/01/2019 - 2/29/20

4/15/2020

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| International Convention | | | | | | | |
| 500 | Governor | | | | | | \$1,000.00 |
| 510 | Lt. Gov. Elect Max \$300. For 3 | | | | | | \$900.00 |
| 540 | Secretary/Treasurer | | | | | | \$1,000.00 |
| 550 | Governor Designate | | | | | | \$1,000.00 |
| 551 | Secretary/Treasurer Designate | | | | | | \$1,000.00 |
| 560 | District OI Conv Meal | | | | | | \$500.00 |
| | Total International Convention | | | | | | \$5,400.00 |
| | Subtotal Disbursements | \$2,076.94 | \$3,290.80 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,076.94 | \$51,005.52 |
| 460 | Transfer to next Administration | | | | | | \$0.83 |
| | Above line includes escrows. See escrow breakdown below. | | | | | | |
| 599 | Total Disbursements | \$2,076.94 | \$3,290.80 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,076.94 | \$51,006.35 |

Reconciliation

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| YTD Financial Report Summary | | | | Total | | |
| Receipts (Includes Transfers from 2018-19) | \$12,338.05 | | | \$4,973.00 | \$12,338.05 | |
| Disbursements | | | | | | |
| Net | \$12,338.05 | | | | | |
| 1st Qtr Bank Account Summary | | | | BB&T | Convention | Jr Golf |
| Beginning Balance | \$12,338.05 | | | | | |
| Deposits & Other Credits | \$4,973.50 | | | | | |
| Expenditures /Withdrawals | \$1,886.05 | | | | | |
| Ending Account Balance | \$15,425.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | | |
| Total Funds | \$15,425.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | | | |

RECONCILLATION OF ESCROW FUNDS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| | | Current Year | |
| DISTRICT CONVENTION | | Increase/(Decrease) | |
| Start-of-Year Balance | \$ 2,205.50 | | |
| Receipts 10-1-19 through 9-30-20 | | | |
| Disbursements 10-1-19 through 9-30-20 | | | |
| End-of-Year Balance | | | |
| JUNIOR GOLF | | | |
| Start-of-Year Balance | \$79.80 | | |
| Receipts 10-1-19 through 9-30-20 | \$0.00 | | |
| Disbursements 10-1-19 through 9-30-20 | | | |
| End-of-Year Balance | \$79.80 | | |
| CCDHH | | | |
| Start-of-Year Balance | \$0.00 | | |
| Receipts 10-1-19 through 9-30-20 | \$0.00 | | |
| Disbursements 10-1-19 through 9-30-20 | \$0.00 | | |
| End-of-Year Balance | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | |

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.

NCE Bulletin

Issued Quarterly: Nov., Feb., May., Sept.

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