

North Carolina East Optimist Bulletin

Hello Fellow NC East Optimists!

Are you ready to start the new Optimist year? I hope so! I am ready to work with all of you to make our District one of the best districts in the world! I believe we are already one of the best in the world because of the wonderful people we have who have supported and worked for our District for many years. Meeting these kind and loyal members about 14 years ago, is what made me hungry for more! If you are one of our loyal district supporters, you already know what I am talking about. If you aren't familiar with our District gatherings, then you are missing out on something very special – the benefit of meeting and getting to know some of the most wonderful people in the world and they live right here in Eastern NC!

The challenge that we face now is that sev-

eral of our awesome supporters are growing older and some are unable to be as active as they face the challenges of aging. We invite club members from all over NC to become involved with the District and to become one of our special leaders who will help us continue to lead our members and our clubs in the pursuit of improving the lives of children, our community and ourselves! If you are seeking opportunities to grow, please come grow with us in the district – we need you and we believe we can help you also.

Let's all choose Optimism! Let's all demonstrate to oth-



ers that we endeavor to live our Optimist Creed. If we do this, we will easily bring new members and clubs into our organization, which will multiply our ability to help our communities and the youth of our communities.

Let's vow to stay Optimistic even in the face

our current issues which include COVID19. We can't change reality, but we can face reality with a positive attitude! I believe we will have a great year, despite our challenges and I know we can have lots of good times and make some good memories!

Thank you for your work in the past and

OI Convention Ambassador

Save the Date!

The 103rd Optimist International Convention is scheduled for June 30-July 3, 2021, in Atlanta, Georgia. This is your opportunity to really get into what our organization is about. It is also an opportunity to make lasting friendships with Optimists who live in other areas and to share ideas about how we can be better at bringing out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.

In addition to the informational sessions and business meetings, there will be lots of tourist sites to explore in the Atlanta area. Plus, attendees from our district always spend at least one evening together and have an exceptionally good time! So mark your calendar

and start making your plans! More information will be available on the OI website, and you can book your room at this link: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/ATLRA/G-OPTI>.

I will be sharing more with you in the days and weeks to come! Let's start generating enthusiasm right away!

Linda Shepherd, OI
Convention Ambassador



District New Club Building

New Club Building Article – Fall Bulletin 2020

Believe it or not, now is a really good time to think about building a new Optimist club! During this COVID-19 pandemic, everyone in the world has had to be creative in thinking about how to achieve our goals with other people without actually being physically present together. Many of us have learned and are continuing to learn about virtual platforms for conducting meetings. So now we know we can interact with others, even if they are on the far side of the globe, by having a Zoom or similar internet meeting. How wonderful it would be to establish a club with friends, whether they live far, far away or

just down the street, for the purpose of making life better for one's community and for youth! Sharing ideas can encourage us to do good deeds to help others, no matter where we live. Isn't that what we want to accomplish as Optimists – to make the world a better place for all?

If you have an idea for getting like-minded people together, whether in person or virtually, please contact me. We can brainstorm about how to make it happen and how to enhance life for young people and everyone else in our world who need our optimism now more than ever before! ~ Linda Shepherd, New Club Building Chair

Candidate Qualifications

Candidate Qualifications- I would love to be able to increase the number of Optimists who are interested in becoming Governor. I intend to touch base with the Lt. Governors of each zone. I will ask each Lt. Governor to touch base with each Club President. They in turn will be asked to look in their clubs and give to me the names of possible candidates. From the pool of candidates I will try to talk with each one to access their interest. Hopefully, I will find some

interest. If not, I will either drop back to punt or Quick Kick!!

Russell Leake
Candidate Qualifications Chair



Junior Optimist International



JOI Club news....

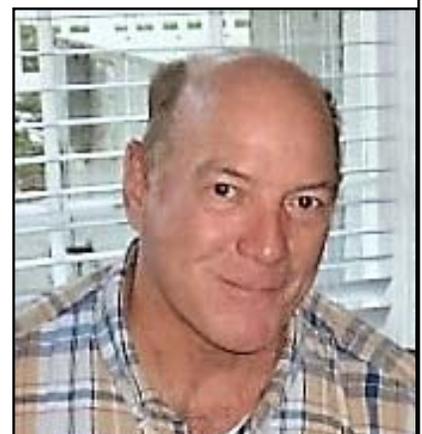
Hello again my fellow Optimists and welcome to our world, 2020 style! Yes, we are all having to re-invent ourselves, our way of life and learning to embrace the new limitations that are placed on us due to the COVID virus. As Optimists, we know there are brighter days ahead and soon the clouds will clear and a bright new normal will appear!

I challenge each club and each club member to be ready for this new beginning and to help ensure that no matter what, our way of thinking will carry on. This can be done by building new JOI clubs in your area schools, churches and community. These young ones will someday carry the torch, but it's up to us to assemble them and point them in the right direction! New beginnings only happen when we, as mentors, sow the seeds of tomorrow!

It only costs a one-time \$50 enrollment fee to get started. Afterward, an annual \$60 club fee and a \$10 annual membership fee per child is all that's required. So let's all get busy and buy some "insurance"

against the next catastrophe and make certain that Optimism will flourish for future generations!

Sam Toler



Sam Toler, District JOI Chair

District Membership

Welcome to another great year of Optimism!

As a club member, please make a commitment to at least one new member this year. Exciting news-for every new member that you get to join your club you will receive a 410.00 Wal-Mart gift certificate, and I am planning a special event honoring the club that brings in the largest number of new members. Get out and be fantastic optimists, wear your pin, smile, be positive and publish pictures and write-ups in the local newspapers of great activities you are doing in the neighborhood to help promote optimism!

I have faith in our members to promote the Optimist creed, recognize new members, and eventually have a NOW meeting. Please try to get First Responders to join and Former Teacher at a fantastic rate of \$30.0.

In closing, Stay Safe, Smile and be a #1 Optimist!!!

Brenda Farmer
Membership Chair



District A & A

Good morning Optimist! I am excited to be the A & A chairman again after having been away for a few years. I am looking forward to working with your club and seeing what projects you are doing for the kids. This year you can either download the A & A form from the District website or you can request that I mail you a form. You can send the form at optimistdurham@yahoo.com, or mail it to me at 1512 Kirk Street, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870. Please let me know which way you want to receive the form.

The form will be due on January 15, 2021, April 15, 2021, July 15, 2021 and October 15, 2021. The district chose to not provide certificates and let all participation clubs be recognized during each district meeting. Barbara and I will make a \$10.00 donation to NC Boy's and Girls Home per club, for all participating each quarter this year. This year will be the last time that I will be able to be a chairperson, due to some medical problems, that I have. I am looking forward to all clubs being a part of the A & A program. Thank

you for allowing me to be your A & A chairman, and to share in what your club is doing this year.

If you have any questions or need my assistance, you can call me at 252 - 203 -1602. Again I look forward to working with you.

Dan Durham



Dan Durham
A & A Chair

District Convention

SUMMER CONFERENCE

July 16th, 17th, 18th

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

Wilmington, NC

During the summer conference in September in Wilmington, NC district members and guest will be celebrating a summer Christmas on Friday Evening. Substituting snow for beautiful warm days close to the shoreline.

Christmas is a special time and would be a special time whatever month it is celebrated.

It is a time of celebrating the birth of Christ, being with family, caroling, watching the smiles on our children, grandchildren's and great grandchildren's faces and did I mention fun, food, presents and yes SANTA.

At the District Conference in September in Wilmington only a few miles from the ocean shoreline we will be celebrating a N.C. East District Christmas on Friday Night. Christmas decorations and more Christmas decorations, ugly sweater contest, bring a Christmas Ornament to exchange, Christmas music, Christmas fun games and YES a real look alike Santa for you to tell him what you want for Christmas 2021.... and the most special thing about Friday Night Christmas Event is to **have your club members personally donate a \$25.00 gift certificate or \$25.00 check for the kids at the Boys & Girls Home**, this is different than the amount of funds your club donates to the home...this is a member individually donating.

So, begin collecting in January from your club members and bring to the summer conference to drop in Santa's large stocking. Santa will be "Thankful" and so with the kids at the home. Santa will also take the time for you to share with him what you would like for Christmas 2021.

Thursday Night will find us celebrating at the N.C. East District Past Governor's Dinner located at a private clubhouse with a catered dinner only three miles from the hotel. Special Entertainment will be provided along with surprises...**every optimist member** is invited to attend this special dinner with the Past Governors.

Also, on Friday there will be **IMPORTANT TRAINING** for the 2021/2022 incoming new officers and

chairmen so take advantage of the training to help you through your year as a district leader.

Saturday will start the morning off with the Ole Timer's Breakfast with a special speaker and then the informative district meeting will come to order. **Saturday night will be induction of next year's new officers and enjoying the Governor's Banquet & Ball.** Sunday morning will find members concluding a **SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE** with a until we meet again breakfast.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AND FELLOWSHIP WITH FELLOW N.C. EAST DISTRICT MEMBERS.

Carey Foster

Sandy Cyphers

Convention Co-Chairs





OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

F O U N D A T I O N

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

After many years of serving as the foundation rep. and stopping due to age, I have been honored by being asked to serve as the OI Foundation Rep. for the 50th anniversary year. There are some changes this year with the Dime-A-Day and lots of emphasis on this being the 50th anniversary. The foundation's purpose is "Helping Optimist Help Kids". There is a vast amount of information at the OI Foundation web site. I hope you will look at it and see the many ways the foundation does help us and our clubs serve the youth in our community and around the world.

As I mentioned earlier about the change in the Dime-A-Day, this year it is 13.7 cents per day or \$50.00 in recognition of the 50th anniversary. Throughout Optimist International, only eight percent of our members give to the foundation. I have sent to all club presidents and Club Foundation Reps a video by Bonnie Jean that is without a doubt the best testimony about the foundation that I have ever heard. I've known about and supported the foundation for forty years. You really need to watch this video. I believe if you do, you will want to support the foundation.

My personal goal is to get at least twenty five percent of our members donating to the foundation. I would really like to see it go to fifty percent in honoring the foundations fiftieth year. The pin you get this year for the Dime-A-Day will be a collectors

item.

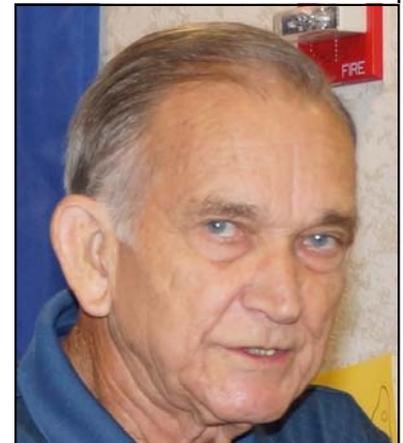
I am also looking forward to having an increase in Presidents Club members which is a \$250.00 donation. I sent a letter to many of you stating that we usually have eight or ten Foundation President Club members. I agreed to give an additional \$100 for every President's Club member over ten that we have this year.

We have thirty two percent of our clubs donating throughout Optimist International. My goal this year is to have at least fifty percent of our club donating in commemorating our 50th anniversary year. Several clubs usually donate \$355. to \$1,000 each year. Governor Angela and I have set Our district goal this year at \$20,000. It will take us all working together to meet this goal but I know we can.

Please talk with your club president and/or Club Foundation Reps about the video.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Optimistically yours,
Bill Edgerton, District
Foundation Rep.



Marketing, Social Media & Webmaster

Hi Optimists!

We are starting a New Year of Optimism and, 2021 is right around the corner. We will soon say good riddance to 2020!

We have created and printed a new directory for our District. We will hand out to the Lt. Governors and then they will distribute to their local clubs. It is also posted on our website.

We have also updated the Website. www.optimistnceast.org. Please double check your information. I can update this info right away if something needs to be changed.

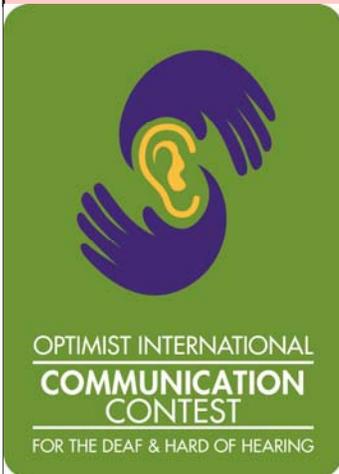


I look so forward to helping kids again. As I'm typing this (October, 2020) schools in Wake County are opening. My local club (Wake Forest) will be able to provide snacks, hygiene products, clothing and some meals to needy children.



Gail Craft District Chair.

Communications Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing



Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

As long as we had the School for the deaf in Wilson helping us with the contest, we didn't have to do much work to have the contest. Things changed year before last when they got a new director. That

may have been a blessing in disguise.

Last year at the beginning of the year, my wife Jan, and I made an appointment with the director over the hearing impaired students in the Wayne County School System,. When we met with her, she also had the lead teacher in that area. They were excited at the thought of having their students get the opportunity to win a \$2,500 scholarship.. We had three students from our system that were participating - then along came Covid-19.

To make a long story short - we need to contact the

director in charge of the hearing impaired students in your local school system. This is a great opportunity for these students, that seldom have the chance to shine. I am asking your club to participate in this contest. There is no reason why we shouldn't have fifteen or twenty students participating. If we should have over ten, we will have a preliminary contest.

The contest will be held in Goldsboro a couple of weeks before our May meeting, date TBD by our February meeting. Please contact your local system and let's all work together to make this a real competition. If you have any question please let me know.

Optimistically yours, Bill Edgerton, (and Jan) District CCDHH Chair.



District Oratorical Contest

Welcome to the new 2020-2021 Optimist year!

**Topic for the 2020-21 school year is:
"Healing the World with Optimism"**

The time to get your club programs started is now—so, let's start with the Optimist International Oratorical Contest.

Youth in every community need you to provide the opportunity. Contact your school system, church, youth groups, debate clubs and so on to publicize the opportunity for a young individual to win a \$2,500.00 scholarship from Optimist International. Contest guidelines and rules are available online from Optimist International, your Lt. Governor, and NC East District Oratorical Chair: Lou Anna Hardee.

Timeline for Clubs: Designed to keep your contest on track and finalize at the NCE Third Quarter District Meeting in May 2021.

Start program October 1, 2020

Club Contest completed before April 9, 2021

Zone Contest completed before April 23, 2021

Zone Contest winners' documentation due by May 1, 2021 to District Chair Lou Anna Hardee,

5425 NC 33 East Greenville, NC 27858
(252-341-3565)

NCE District Contest is scheduled to be held in Cary, NC on May 8, 2021.

Who: Youth under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2020 (and not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution) in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean. There is no minimum age. The Optimist Oratorical Contest gives youngsters the chance to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college scholar-

ships funded by the Optimist International Foundations is awarded annually from this program.

First conducted in 1928, this is the second most popular Optimist International Program. Nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. Districts have the opportunity to provide a scholarship of \$2,500, second place \$1,500, and third place \$1,000.

Each district will have the opportunity to send their top speaker (district winner) who will compete at the Optimist Regional Contest at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. The Regional Scholarship award is \$5,000. Scholarship must be redeemed by the age of 25. The Regional Contest will be held July 21-23, 2021, at Saint Louis University in OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD COMPETITION. Each Regional Winner will compete in the World Championship Contest for a chance to win a first, second, or third place scholarship of \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 respectively. The World Championship Contest will be held July 21-23, 2021, at Saint Louis University.

How To Enter: Interested students submit a speech which must be at least 4 minutes but not over 5 minutes in length on the pre-assigned topic to their local Optimist Club. To find out the contact in your area, please e-mail the Programs Department at programs@optimist.org

Students: The deadline to enter is determined by the sponsoring Optimist Club. All Club-level contests are typically held by late March.

This speech contest is designed to inspire today's youth to motivate and inform others through the art of public speaking. It provides young people with the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship and express their views on a pre-assigned topic

For 2020-2021, let's all **"Choose Optimism"** and remember—**"Serving Youth Today--Grows Optimists for Tomorrow!"**

Yours in Optimism,

Lou Anna

Lou Anna Hardee

2020-2021 NCE Oratorical Chair

**NC East District,
Optimist Interna-
tional**



District Essay Contest



ESSAY CONTEST

With the Optimist New Year comes a new **ESSAY TOPIC!**

I find it amazing the wonderful topics the O.I. Activities Committee and members of the Junior Optimist International (JOI) board select for the new year. A lot of time is given,

and suggestions discussed as to topics to submit to the O.I. Board of Directors for their vote and approval for the upcoming new optimist year.

To clubs in the district that are involved with promoting the Essay Contest in their respective communities they are aware the most important concept behind the Essay Contest is the **\$2500** Scholarship awarded to the district winner. What can be as simple as finding students to write an essay for scholarship funds and have them judged by local members of the community?

Members of your club may have a child or grandchild, even friends, relatives, and neighbors' children that would meet the qualifications. There is no ex-

pense to your club (with the exception if your club chooses to present a medal, savings bond, cash, or a small scholarship).

If your club is not involved in this Optimist International Program.....I ask...**WHY NOT?**

Hundred of thousands of students are constantly in need and in search of financial assistance for scholarships and financial assistance. **MAKE A CHANGE IN YOUR CLUB AND OFFER THIS OPPORTUNITY to students in your community.**

2020/2021 ESSAY TOPIC: **"REACHING your DREAMS by CHOOSING OPTIMISM"**

REQUIREMENTS: **Under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2020**

LENGTH: **700-800 Words**

DEADLINE to District Chairman: **March 26th**

Sandy Cyphers
N.C. East District Essay Chair



THE OPTIMIST

International Junior Golf Championships



NC East District Junior Golf returns to the links in 2021



David Hodges
Junior Golf Chair

The Optimist International Tournament of Champions (TOC) will return to PGA National, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on November 14-15, 2020. How great it is to get our junior golfers back on the course!!!! **Tyler Jones** of Jacksonville, NC will head down to PGA National to play in the TOC. Good luck Tyler!!!!!!



Nice visit with Tyler Jones at the "Coastal Plains" 2019 OPTIMIST Champion, Haley Quickel

In New Bern on August 1, 2020 at Greenville Country Club on Aug 1, 2020

The 2021 OPTIMIST (Optimist International Junior Golf Championships) heads back to Trump National Doral in Miami, Florida this July. Will a NC East golfer bring a Champion's Trophy home like **Haley Quickel** (Girls 15-18 Year Age-Division) did at the last OPTIMIST????

NC East 2021 OPTIMIST Qualifier Schedule should be finalized soon. It is time now for your Club to search for junior golfers in your community. Need help finding golfers???.....Just call or email me and I will help you. Both Boys and Girls High School Golf seasons are scheduled for the Spring this year. Call your local high schools now.



CHECK THIS OUT. Make sure your Club lets the junior golfers in your community know about the Hugh Cranford All Scholastic Team. SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE
2020 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team

Hugh Cranford

Hugh Cranford served as Executive Director of Optimist International from 1967 to 1986.

He was instrumental in starting the Optimist Junior Golf program and in 1978 led the efforts to co-sponsor the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, the forerunner to today's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Cranford passed away August 2014



****For Boys and Girls Ages 16-18****

\$1,000.00 Per Recipient

Optimist Junior Golf is no longer accepting applications.

We are sorry to inform you that the 2020 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship has been cancelled due to the COVID 19. However, the Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic program was reevaluated for the 2020 year. The five golfers selected will receive an automatic exemption into the Tournament of Champions held November 14-15, 2020 at PGA National Resort and Spa. The team selected will consist of golfers between the ages of 16 and 18 as of the last day of the Optimist International Tournament of Champions (November 15, 2020). Junior golfers selected to the team will receive an automatic exemption into the Tournament of Champions held November 14-15, 2020 at PGA National Resort and Spa, which includes two tournament rounds, range balls prior to play, golfer's lunch on both tournament round days, Optimist Golf gift package, award plus a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

The Scholarship will be sent directly to the financial aid department of the recipient's chosen University, College or Technical School.

Junior golfers who are interested in applying should read the steps below and submit the application (s).

Complete the application(s) as indicated

include a writing sample (250-500 words) on the topic indicated on application.

Attach supporting documentation. The following items are the only items that will be accepted: current school transcript, most-recent grade report, and test results.

Two letters of recommendation from adults other than family members. EMAIL APPLICATION TO: GOLF@OPTIMIST.ORG

Optimist Junior Golf

Attn: All-Scholastic Team

EMAIL TO GOLF@OPTIMIST.ORG

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Parton, Junior Golf Senior Director, at golf@optimist.org, (314) 881-1307 or toll free (800) 500-8130, ext. 207.

Thank you for your interest in the Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team.

Golden Circle Show Appreciation to First Responders

Gave Candy Treats on the Dedication & Hard Work Of The Agencies



Jessica Williams and Optimist Debbie Forbes.



Takela Howard, Optimist Debbie Forbes, Matthew Proseus, Optimist Brenda Faarmer and Kalif Ward.



Gordon McGinnis, Cameron Taylor, Pittman Horton and Optimist Brenda Farmer.



Jessica Williams and Optimist Brenda Farmer



Gordon McGinnis, Cameron Taylor, Pittman Horton and Optimist Brenda Farmer.

Wake Forest Optimist Club Food Insecurity Update

Back Pack Buddies in not allowing any volunteers at this time due to Covid.

Donna delivered:

Heritage High: 25 drawstring bags

WFE: clothing and toiletries

WFM: toiletries and clothing and food

Jones Dairy: toiletries and clothing

Last week was their first week back at school.

PreK- third grade.

Delivered all last Wednesday.

Will purchase more clothes as needed.

NCSFT Food



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GOOD LEADERSHIP

HELLO FELLOW OPTIMISTS. I hope you and yours are doing well during this pandemic. It has been a long and drawn out process since March. But we are Optimists and we will get through these trying times.

I would like to share with you seven practices of good leadership.

- Share an inspiring VISION.
- Focus on results, process and relationships.
- Seek appropriate involvement.
- Design pathways to action.
- Facilitate agreement.

Coach for performance.
Celebrate accomplishments.

Leaders can tap the power of participation by applying these seven practices of leadership. It is very important that we use these 7 practices to encourage the members in our District to become the best we can be.

Jimmy Lamm, Leadership Chair



I It is my honor and privilege to serve as your District secretary for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

I am excited about the upcoming year in Optimist. I know that each club is going to accomplish great things for our youth.

I have accompanied our Governor on a few trips to visit with some of our clubs. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people and seeing old friends.

Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of as-

sistance to you.

I wish each of you a wonderful year and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Optimistically yours,
Carol Collier





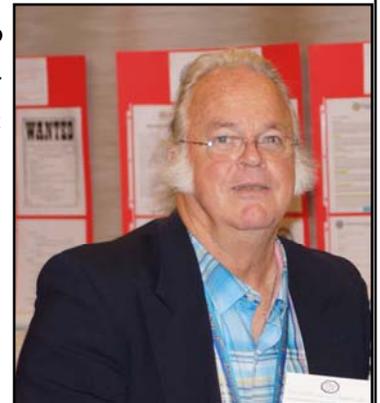
Hello Optimist

Great news from the Boys & Girls all the children and staff are safe and healthy and taking all the necessary steps to keep everyone safe. There have been some changes at the home with President Gary Faircloth retiring after 12 years at the home due to his wife Betty's health. I'm very proud to have served on the board under the leadership on Gary his has made so many changes at the home and all for the good of the kids. The new President is Ricky Creech and I'm looking forward to meeting Ricky in



Optimist Cottage B&G Home Lake Waccamaw

person and serving on the board under his leadership. Mason Smith Director of Civic Clubs with the home will be with us at the 1st quarter district meeting. If you see Mason please introduce yourself and make him feel welcome. Our Optimist cottage is being used as a sibling cottage and that is where 2 or more siblings are there at the same time. I can't think of a better use for our cottage than to keep siblings together at such a hard time in their lives. A great big THANK YOU to all Optimist and Optimist Clubs that donate to the Boys & Girls home to help make that difference in a child's life. I am proud to serve as the NC East District Chair for the Boys & Girls Home 2020-2021 year. I will be more than happy to come and speak to your club about the home or get Mason or Ray to speak.



Gary Pender
NC East District Chair
Boys & Girls Home



Ricky Creech named President/CEO for B&GH

Lake Waccamaw, NC – Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina Board Chairman David Wyatt has announced Ricky Creech as the new President and CEO for the nonprofit organization.

“I am very pleased and excited to announce our board selected Ricky as our new president,” said Wyatt. “He comes to us after serving as president and CEO at Southstone Behavioral Health Center in Virginia. He had previously served as president and CEO of Buckhorn Children & Family Services. His experiences with those organizations will help him guide B&GH into the future.”

Creech is excited about the position.

“I am humbled by the honor to serve the Boys & Girls Homes of NC as their next president and CEO,” he said. “Following the long legacy of stellar executive leadership will afford me the opportunity to stand on the shoulders of giants, such as Gary Faircloth, and peer into the future and write the next chapter that will build on the rich history of changing the lives of those who enter our doors.”

Creech will officially start on Oct. 1. Retiring President Gary Faircloth will continue in an advisory role until the end of October.

“I am looking forward to working with Ricky,” said Faircloth. “I will do everything I can to achieve a smooth transition.”

Creech is already preparing for the next steps. “While celebrating the past, we must do so with a vision of the future that will allow us to expand services and programs, continue to strengthen and increase our business partners and donors, utilize the gift of volunteer service, and leverage the wisdom and skills of an incredible Board of Directors and Staff Team with the

focus of maximizing our greatest potential in living out the mission, vision and values of B&GH for many more years to come.”

A graduate of the South Carolina Fire Academy, he received his Associate of Arts degree from North Greenville University and his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Furman University. He holds a Certificate in Theology and a Masters in Social Work from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as well as a number of certifications ranging from abuse and neglect to disaster planning.

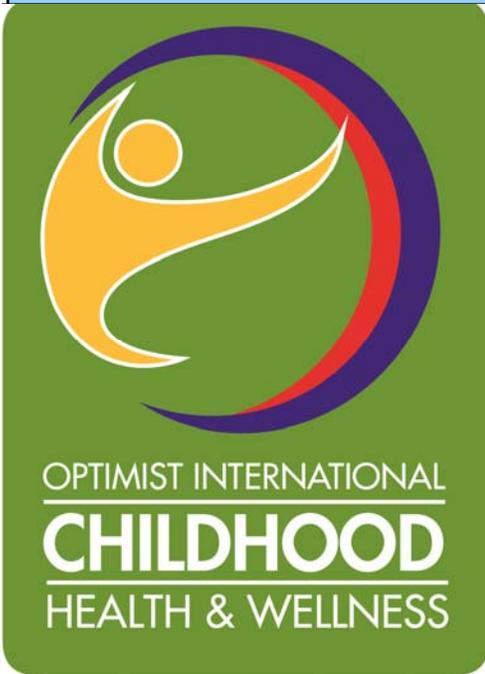
An ordained minister, Creech was the executive director for the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and the executive director of the Birmingham Baptist Association among other church leadership positions.

Creech and his wife Donna are currently residents of Ringgold, Va., and have three daughters.



Ray

Childhood Health & Wellness



Childhood Health & Wellness

Our District Childhood and Wellness Program Chairs would like to remind us all to continue saving our “pop tabs” and bringing them to the District meetings where they



will be combined with other donations and delivered to the Ronald McDonald houses in Greenville, Chapel Hill and Durham.

Sara Robbins is also encouraging us to continue to donate knitted caps which she calls “Bella’s Hats” (named after a young cancer patient). Bella’s hats help to keep those little heads warm during chemo treatments.

In 2019 the Childhood Health & Wellness Program was created and was built on the highly successful Childhood Cancer Campaign to expand our impact. Clubs and Districts will now have the opportunity to

initiate projects and services to improve the quality of life for children in their communities across a broader spectrum of needs.

Childhood Health & Wellness will include four focus areas (not limited to the examples below):



Healthy Lifestyles (Child Obesity, Healthy Eating, Physical Fitness, Happy Heart Advice, March of Dimes)

Chronic Diseases (Childhood Cancer, Juvenile Diabetes, HIV, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Sickle Cell Anemia)

Mental Health (Depression, Bullying, Abuse)

Disabilities – Physical, Intellectual & Developmental (Autism, Special Olympics)

Trish Verne & Sara Robbins
Childhood Health & Wellness



Trish Verne
District Co-Chair



Sara Robbins,
District Co-Chair

.NORTH CAROLINA EAST DISTRICT
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
4th QUARTER VIRTUAL DISTRICT
CONVENTION

General Meeting, Saturday, September
19, 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
Kathy Brennan	Lt. Governor – Zone 1
Linda Isbell	Lt. Governor – Zone 3
Jerry Delbridge	Lt. Governor – Zone 5
Stan Pickett	Lt. Governor – Zone 6
Joyce Leake	District Secretary
Dan Durham	District Treasurer
Sandy Cyphers	OI Vice President
David Bowman	OI Vice President

Clubs Represented: 16

Zone 1: Wilmington, Cape Fear

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

Zone 4: Greenville, Roanoke Rapids, Blackbirds, Rocky Mount Evening

Zone 5: Henderson, Northern Wake, Chapel Hill

Zone 6: Raleigh, Raleigh Dinner

Total Members Present: 37

Governor Russell Leake called the meeting to order followed by an invocation led by Jimmy Lamm. After the colors were presented, the National Anthem was sung by Mollie Powell, granddaughter of the Leakes. Dan Durham then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to America. There were no first timers present, but there were 9 Past Governors present – Dan Durham, Lou Anna Hardee Jimmy Lamm, Gary Pender, Linda Shepherd, Carey Foster, Jim Hart, Wayne Sidelinger, and Sandy Cyphers.

Joyce Leake read the 2nd quarter minutes and asked if there were any questions or discussion. Gary Pender made a motion to accept the minutes and Carey Foster seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Copies of the 2nd and 3rd quarter financial reports had been sent out to various leaders prior to the Zoom meeting for perusal. Carey Foster made a motion to accept the financial reports and Sandy Cyphers seconded the motion. The financial reports were approved. Treasurer Dan mentioned that all reimbursements need to be turned in as soon as possible.

Committee Chair Reports

Gary Pender and Ray Cockrell reported that the kids at the Boys and Girls Home are all okay. There have been no positive cases of COVID-19 on campus. Everyone has been a little stir craze due to having to stay on campus. A part time sports/recreation director has been hired which has resulted in better behavior and less drama. The new president of the home is Ricky Creech who has much experience working with kids and is also an ordained minister. Former President Faircloth needed to focus on his wife during her illness.

Gary and Ray presented Jimmy Lamm with the Walt Armentrout Award saying that he has a heart for Optimism and is so deserving of this honor. During the Altar Call, several clubs presented generous donations to the Home. Any club contributing \$500 or

more to the Boys and Girls Home can nominate someone for the Walt Armentrout Award.

Carol Collier, Essay Chair, shared the names of the three essay winners. Jasmine Richardson, from the Henderson Club finished third, Sarah Fox, from the Wake Forest Club, finished second, and Tyler Gup-ton, from the Roanoke Rapids Club, finished in first place. Congratulations to all those who competed in this competition.

Joyce Leake, Oratorical Chair, commended those 26 participants from zones 3, 4, and 5 who ventured out of their comfort zones to participate in this event. A special thanks was extended to Cheryl Elman (Henderson), our Zoom expert, and also to Maggie Anderson (Wake Forest), Amanda Sanders (Northern Wake), and Gary Pender (Goldsboro) for helping make the Virtual District Oratorical Contest a success. The winners were as follows: Eli May-field from the Wake Forest Club--third place, Aniyah Taylor from Golden Circle--second place, and Alyssa Febres from the Northern Wake Club--first place.

Billy Edgerton, CCDHH Chair, was not present but Gary Pender stressed Billy's passion for this commit-tee. He also stated that one of the contestants was hospitalized at the time of the contest, but OI al-lowed that person to win a scholarship anyway. All of the contestants came from public schools so we all need to check with our schools for any kids who might qualify.

Errol Warren, OI Foundation Chair, was not present but a short video from OI was shown stating that they had a great 1st quarter but have been really hurting financially since then, so any help the clubs can give will be appreciated. Our district sent in \$500 to help with the foundation's needs. Several clubs stated they have already or are getting ready to send in their contributions.

Terry Corle, A & A Chair, stated that only three

clubs sent in their A & A reports on time. The Greenville and Roanoke Rapids clubs sent theirs in later. Lou Anna Pender suggested that a reminder would be helpful.

Sam Toler, JOI Chair, shared that a new club was formed in Greenville. This new group is planning a camping trip in the near future at Medoc Mountain. Lou Anna applauded Pamela Franks for her efforts in forming this new club.

David Hodges, Junior Golf Chair, was not present but dates were given for the 2021 Championships to be held in Miami, Florida at Trump National.

July 14 – Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12

July 19-24 – Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14

July 24-29 – Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

Trish Verne, Childhood Health and Wellness Chair, has put homemade masks on her fence for whoever needs them. The masks have been taken and lots of donations have been left. The Ronald McDonald House has lots of needs especially during this time. There is a list of these needs on the internet. A new unit has opened up in Chapel Hill for young patients needing transplants. Some specific needs are masks, ear savers, diaper bags, toboggans, and other hats.

No information given by Auston Pusey, Member-ship Chair.

Russell Leake, New Club Building Chair, reported that there had been the possibility of a new club in the Wilmington area before COVID-19 happened.

Angela Iwaniuk, Club Fitness Chair, stressed that all of our clubs are struggling but are still surviving. Six clubs are positive in membership: Laurinburg, Goldsboro, Roanoke Rapids, Wake Forest, and Rox-boro. There were 21 \$500 grants given out to clubs for projects and 3 of these were from our district: Northern Wake, Greenville, and Wake Forest.

Wayne Sidelinger, Bulletin Chair, stated that all he need is a list of deceased members and the bulletin should be on the website.

Lou Anna Hardee, Leadership Development Chair, presented a video about identifying and fostering future leaders for our club. She stated that we all must be willing to take on new roles in order to better the club. Those in attendance were encouraged to read the Hotline for the latest OI news. A special thanks was given to all those who helped prepare for the District Zoom meeting.

Carey Foster, OI Convention Ambassador, shared the date June 30-July 3, 2021 in Atlanta for the next OI Convention followed by Reno, Nevada in 2022 (per Sandy Cyphers)

Linda Shepherd, Candidate Qualifications Chair, submitted a letter from Pamela Franks asking to be considered for Governor Elect 2020-21. The district secretary cast one vote to accept Pamela's request since it is an unopposed position.

David Bowman, OI Vice President, installed the new officers for 2020-21.

A video was shown recognizing and honoring all of our past governors.

An inspiring memorial ceremony was presented by our Immediate Past Governor Linda Shepherd. The twelve members from our district who have passed away in the past year made up over 73 years of experience. They are as follows: Max Stephenson, Carl Currie, Russell Priest, Bill Riggin, Cecil McLamb, William Knight, Cedric Roberts, Lynette Ware, Harrison Phelps, Eugene Darrow, Douglas Holland, W. Tommy Vick.

Angela Iwaniuk, Governor Designate, presented an Outback gift card to Governor Russell Leake for his service the past year. She also offered a special thank

you to Gail Craft and Linda Shepherd for all their help. Angela stated that there is a big challenge before us as we try to be optimistic in spite of all the negatives surrounding us. We must work together and with God's blessings, we can and will have a good year. "Choose Optimism" is the motto for the coming year. Angela left us with an inspiring and appropriate quote by Helen Keller. "Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much."

Governor Russell's Remarks: Our motto for this year has been "Working together to better serve our youth" and I truly believe working together is a necessity. If you haven't read the Optimist Creed lately, put it on your reading list because it says so many powerful things that we all need to live by. A special thanks goes out to Dan Durham, Joyce Leake, Lou Anna Pender, and Gail Craft for all the help they have given me this year.

David Bowman mentioned the Learning Management System that is free to all club presidents. He urged clubs not to forget to send in club officer reports and dues. David emphasized that he has no doubt that this district will be successful.

Carey Foster led those in attendance with the Optimist Creed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Joyce Leake
District Secretary
2019-2020



4th Quarter Financial Report 10/1/19 – 9/30/20

11/4/2021

Receipts							
Acct #		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD	Budget
100		\$3,902.50	\$3,029.00	\$3,170.00	\$3,085.50	\$13,187.00	\$13,140.00
105	Corporate Club						\$0.00
110	Allotment from OI [G]		\$301.71			\$301.71	\$711.00
120	District Convention [A]				\$370.00	\$370.00	\$9,848.50
130	District Meetings [B]	\$970.00	\$1,108.00			\$2,078.00	\$1,920.00
145	Jr. Golf [D]			\$195.00		\$195.00	\$274.80
150	Miscellaneous Receipts [L]	\$101.00				\$101.00	\$92.00
160	Interest Earned (MM)						\$0.00
190	OI Foundation						\$500.00
191	Auction B&G						\$500.00
192	Other - fifty fifty						\$400.00
800	CCDHH [K]						\$0.00
	Subtotal Receipts	\$4,973.50	\$4,438.71	\$3,365.00	\$3,455.50	\$16,232.71	
650	Transfer from Prev Adm						\$12,338.05
	Total Receipts	\$4,973.50	\$4,438.71	\$3,365.00	\$3,455.50	\$16,232.71	
Disbursements							
Acct #	Account Name	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	YTD	Budget
200	Governor	\$271.68	\$253.20			\$524.88	\$2,000.00
210	Lt. Governors [F]	\$151.28	\$221.84			\$373.12	\$1,633.12
250	Secretary/Treasurer			\$318.10		\$318.10	\$600.00
255	Governor Elect				\$255.76	\$255.76	\$1,000.00
260	Immediate Past Governor (O)						\$0.00
261	Past Governor (O)						\$0.00
262	Boys & Girls Home (Chair Travel to B&GH)						\$150.00
263	NCB Chairperson						\$0.00
265	Committee Chairs [N]		\$60.00		\$160.32	\$220.32	\$296.48
300	Clerical/Secretary						\$25.00
301	Postage						\$30.00
320	Office Supplies			\$60.00		\$60.00	\$60.00
330	District Bulletin				\$450.00	\$450.00	\$650.00
331	Web Page						\$200.00
340	District Directory	\$554.74				\$554.74	\$575.00
350	District Convention [A]				\$271.07	\$271.07	\$0.00
351	District Conv Allotment [A]						\$876.00
360	District Meetings [B]	\$537.23	\$1,475.96			\$2,013.19	\$1,806.46
361	Lt. Governor's Conference						\$400.00
370	Oratorical [C]				\$187.56	\$187.56	\$187.56
371	CCDHH [K]				\$185.84	\$185.84	\$200.00
380	Jr. Golf [D]						\$0.00
390	Essay Contest [E]		\$93.35			\$93.35	\$93.35
400	Badges & Pins/Officers	\$298.40			\$105.93	\$404.33	\$800.00
410	Awards, Current Year [J]						\$0.00
411	Awards, Past Year [J]		\$986.81			\$986.81	\$860.00
420	Audit/Bank Charges	\$7.50				\$7.50	\$0.00
421	Audit / Review / 990						\$100.00
430	Merchandise Expense						\$250.00
440	New Club Supplies						\$1,000.00
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			\$500.00	\$521.31	\$500.00
448	Boys & Girls Home				\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
450	Gifts [I]	\$234.80				\$234.80	\$74.72
470	Miscellaneous Expenses				\$146.85	\$146.85	\$100.00
480	Previous Administration Expense				\$41.00	\$41.00	\$0.00
490	Next Administration Expense				\$231.12	\$231.12	\$0.00
		\$2,076.94	\$3,091.16	\$378.10	\$3,035.45	\$8,581.65	
	International Convention						
500	Governor						\$0.00
510	Lt. Gov. Elect Max \$300. For 3					\$8,578.65	\$0.00
540	Secretary/Treasurer						\$0.00

4th Quarter Financial Report 10/1/19 to 9/30/20

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550	Governor Designate						\$0
551	Secretary/Treasurer Designate						\$0
560	District OI Conv Meal						\$0
	Total International Convention						\$0
	Subtotal Disbursements	\$2,076.94	\$3,091.16	\$378.10	\$3,905.31	\$2,076.94	\$0
460	Transfer to next Administration Above line includes escrows. See escrow breakdown below.						\$0
599	Total Disbursements	\$2,076.94	\$3,091.16	\$378.10	\$3,905.31	\$2,076.94	\$0

Reconciliation

YTD Financial Report Summary						Total
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		\$12,338
Receipts	\$4,973.50	\$4,438.71	\$3,365.00	\$3,455.50		
Disbursements	\$2,076.94	\$3,091.16	\$378.10	\$2,935.45		
Net	\$2,896.56	\$1,347.55	\$2,986.90	\$520.05		
Beginning Balance	\$12,338.05	\$15,234.61	\$16,582.16	\$19,569.06		
Deposits & Other Credits	\$4,973.50	\$4,438.71	\$3,365.00	\$3,455.50		
Expenditures /Withdrawals	\$2,076.94	\$1,347.55	\$378.10	\$2,935.45		
Ending Account Balance	\$15,234.61	\$16,582.16	\$19,569.06	\$20,089.11		
Total Funds	\$15,234.61	\$16,582.16	\$19,569.06	\$20,080.11		

RECONCILLATION OF ESCROW FUNDS

	Current Year Increase/(Decrease)
DISTRICT CONVENTION	
Start-of-Year Balance	\$ 2,205.50
Receipts 10-1-19 through 9-30-20	\$470.00
Disbursements 10-1-19 through 9-30-20	\$211.17
End-of-Year Balance	\$2,886.17
JUNIOR GOLF	
Start-of-Year Balance	\$79.80
Receipts 10-1-19 through 9-30-20	\$195.00
Disbursements 10-1-19 through 9-30-20	\$0.00
End-of-Year Balance	\$274.50
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

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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