

North Carolina East District Bulletin



2nd Quarter District Meeting February, 2026

Message from Governor Timothy Johnson

Time flies when you're having fun! And time flies when you're doing great things! One Quarter of the 2025-2026 Optimist Year is behind us! That was fast! We've done some great things so far!

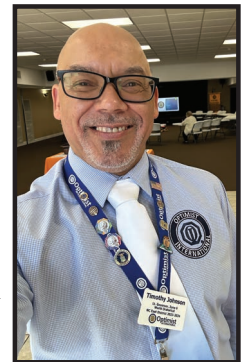
For example, East Wake Optimist Club is feeding the children at the Zebulon Boys and Girls Club! So far, they've served 70 children 2x/month, for a total of 840 Meals so far for the school year! Kudos! Roanoke Rapids Optimist Club makes over 3,000 Easter eggs for their hunt each year! Garner Optimist Club is the official sponsor of the Town of Garner Christmas Parade! And in Wilson Golden Circle - over the past seven years they have donated over 2,000 stuffed animals to the sheriff's department for scared children in need of comfort.

And this is just the start of things! I'm excited to see what's in store for the next Quarter and the entire year! Set your sights on things ahead! Envision and imagine all the great things our District can do and is doing!

I want to encourage clubs to conduct an Essay Contest and an Oratorical Contest. Before the new Optimist Year even started, OI emailed and said they'd already gotten inquiries from students and parents! These are staple programs for Optimist International. They take a little planning and a little organizing, but it's worth it. It's worth it to empower young people to compete and to succeed. It's worth it to celebrate all contestants on their hard work. And it's worth all the effort to present medals, plaques, and ultimately a check to the winners.

Once upon a time... Well, several times upon a time... I was involved with network marketing/direct sales companies. One of the things all of them have in common, is they get you to write down names of people with whom you want to cultivate a

relationship. The aim is to identify people who are going to be: either clients, business recruits, or referrals. At the District Convention Last Quarter, I encouraged you to identify one person! Remember I asked, "Who's Your One?"



I promised to hand out a bookmark for you to actually write down the name of your One Person.

I want you to build (or rebuild) a relationship with that one person. Take them to coffee, not to manipulate them to join... but to build relationships. Hopefully over the course of connecting, Optimism will come up naturally. Share what you're doing or what your club is doing. You know this person. You know what resonates with them. Mention something relevant to their interests and connect it to your Club or our District. Later, invite them to "partner" with you. For example, the Raleigh Club does Roadside Cleanup four times a year. For example, I'd ask if they'd like to help out that day, either actually collecting litter, or delivering bottles of water to the laborers, or whatever. I'd want them to take part in what we do. Or if your club is having a special dinner, invite them and comp the dinner. Show them hospitality. As they see the things your Club is doing, then extend an invitation to them.

Face it, clubs in our district are doing great things. We're giving scholarships and operating programs and blessing our communities... And people want to be a part of entities that are doing positive things. There's no better place!

Optimists make a difference! Our District makes a difference! YOU make a difference!

Zone 1 Update

Bennie Bass, Lt. Governor

Winter Park

Christmas Tree Lot, was a huge success, thanks to the communities support. Baseball and Softball sign ups going on now. Both programs continue to grow especially Softball.



Cape Fear Optimist

In our Christmas Tree Lot we had a good year.

Softball registration is going on now.



The Wilmington Club

They will be working again with Thomas Academy at BGHNC on the Essay Contest. They are working on Teacher Appreciation efforts for DC Virgo. They will be exploring the Kids in Lids program to support childhood cancer in the next quarter.



Zone 2 Update

TBD, Lt. Governor

Laurenburg

Had a successful Christmas Tree Sale this year!



Zone 4 Update

TBD, Lt. Governor

IT'S TIME!!!!
ROANOKE RAPIDS
OPTIMIST CLUB
T-BALL
AND
COACH PITCH
REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!!!

REGISTRATION IS BEING HELD ONLINE THIS YEAR. SIMPLY CLICK ON THE ATTACHED LINK TO FILL OUT THE GOOGLE FORM, SUBMIT PAYMENT VIA ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW AND YOU ARE DONE! COACHES WILL BEGIN CONTACTING PLAYERS AFTER APRIL 30th.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSFJm8G8KHfVHVLPESTNRYUABZMjH5UCiYJ0Bj68PmYCOjVtWt0RM7USP-Header>


CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE OUT TO ROANOKE RAPIDS OPTIMIST CLUB CAN BE MAILED TO 1806 CHARLOTTE ST, ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC 27670 OR PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ONLINE

(COPY AND PASTE LINK INTO NEW BROWSER WINDOW)
https://swipesimple.com/links/LMK_64FC7982FAC0A8A8DC87AA5189588
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO PAY

FORMS ARE DUE BY
MARCH 14TH

T-BALL AGES: 4,5,OR 6 BY MAY 6TH
COACH PITCH 6,7,OR 8 BY MAY 6TH

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL
RROPTIMIST84@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL OR TEXT
BETTY JO @ 252-308-5416
MISTY @ 252-532-3928



Zone 3 Update
Robin Murtha, Lt. Governor



Wilson Golden Circle XMas Party



Wilson Golden Circle -
Family receiving XMas presents



Goldsboro donating gift bags to the
Children's Home in Mt Olive



Wilson Golden Circle
Stuffed Animals for the
Sheriff's Department



Goldsboro XMas Party

Zone 5 Update

David Jennings Interim, Lt. Governor

Our NC East District Zone 5 consists of the following clubs: Wake Forest, Roxboro, Chapel Hill, Orange County, Wake Tech and Henderson.

The Wake Forest Club continues to sponsor the Crop Hunger Walk which includes their JOI club. They are working feverishly with Backpack Buddies as well as the Food Drive for Tri Area Ministries food pantry. In addition, the Wake Forest club plans on having a yearly quarter auction to raise funds for their missives.

The Henderson Club continues to work with and support the ACTS (Area Christians Together in Service) Food Pantry. The club recently had

their Christmas Program sponsoring kids from the Oxford Orphanage.

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

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



Henderson Optimist Club Essay winners

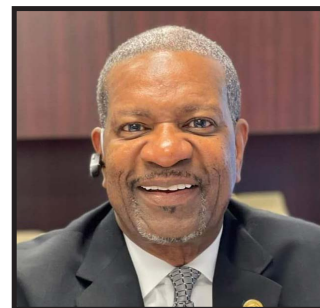


Wake Forest -
Shop with a Cop
Back Pack Buddies
Cubbies for the Boys and Girls Club



Zone 6 Update

Tony DeRico, Lt. Governor



Raleigh
Christmas Tree Lot Setup



Garner Optimist Parade:
Wilson Golden Circle
Wake Forest
and Raleigh Clubs handed out candy



East Wake Club feeding the
Boys & Girls Club in Zebulon
Governor Timothy helped too!

Optimists Make a Difference!!

Boys & Girls Homes Ray Cockrell – Wilmington

Christmas is always such a special time at Boys and Girls Homes! Our kids experience a range of emotions during this season, but they always know they are loved! Huge shout-out to our Optimist clubs and families that helped make this time of year really special. Garner, Raleigh and an individual family associated with the Greenville Club stepped up for our girls. Thank you!

Check out our new logo!

Just as we did last year, we are giving all clubs an opportunity to get involved and provide for our Optimist Cottage girls. See the link below to sign up for different holidays and special days throughout the year. There is an opportunity once per month. Please look over the list and sign up for the time that excites you the most.

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

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



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

Optimist Make a Difference!!

Ray



PROMISE YOURSELF

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



Oratorical Contest Liz Griffins, Garner Club

2025-2026 ESSAY District Contest

Topic: "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me"

Top Finisher receives \$2,500.00 scholarship

WHO may enter:

Contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2025 and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent. Clubs can go to our Optimist website and download the Club Planning Guide for how to hold a Club Contest. [https://optimist.org/Documents/2026/programs/25-26 Essay Club Planning Guide.pdf](https://optimist.org/Documents/2026/programs/25-26%20Essay%20Club%20Planning%20Guide.pdf)

DEADLINE for District Contest: FEBRUARY 28, 2026

Club Essay Winner paperwork must be received by the District Chair.

Please advise all contestants of the Contestant Agreement noting that all Essays will be run through plagiarism and AI detection software.

As the District Essay Chairperson, I ask that if your club is conducting a contest and submitting a District entry to notify me by e-mail so that I can be on the lookout for your packet.

My contact information is below:

Liz Griffiths, Essay Chairperson
2512 Nassau Tree
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
PH: 703-216-1845
E-mail: lizbeth 194 8@gmail.com



OI Foundation Representative Gary Pender, Goldsboro Club

Here we are in the second quarter of the Optimist year, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our District meeting.

I want to thank the Cape Fear Optimist Club and the Wake Forest Optimist Club for inviting me to speak to their club about the OI Foundation.

As always their members support the Foundation strongly and I thank you. If you supported the Foundation last year I will be having a drawing for \$100.00. To put your name in on the drawing in September all you

have to do is support the Foundation.

I am willing to come visit your club and let your members know just what the foundation is all about so call me at 919-920-9190.

Thank You in advance for your support
Gary Pender DFR



District JOI Club Paige Bivens, Wake Forest Club

Leading with Heart Wake Forest High School JOI Club

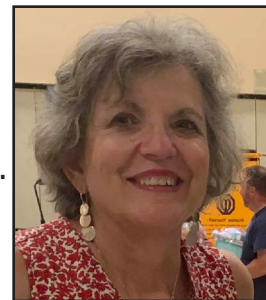
While the Winter months are sometimes a period of time to slow down, reflect, and set goals the Wake Forest High School JOI Club is doing just the opposite. They are moving for-ward with "heartfelt" projects. Whether you are a Coach K (Mike Krzyzewski) or not he wrote a book that encompasses many of our core values in Optimist Club. The key themes in his book are:

- Compassionate Leadership: Leading with empathy and genuine care for individuals
- Team Building: Fostering a strong sense of unity and shared purpose.
- Adaptability: Adjusting strategies to meet the needs of the team and situation.
- Trust and Respect: Building a foundation of mutual trust and respect among team members.
- Peak Performance: Inspiring individuals to perform at their highest level.
- Application: Applying lessons from the basketball court to business and life.

It seems that those are universal skills that lead to success in our lives. Our club has worked toward those values through their planning, conversations, and executing their plans. The officers created a survey with options for our year-long projects of community service. They presented these options in a meeting and then gave members time to think about the possibilities.



They designed an online voting platform. They compiled the data and sent out circle graphs with the results to our members.



In December, they wrote letters to be included in Comfort Kits for foster children. The cards were filled with honesty and compassion. They also led craft stations with children that attended Shop with a Cop. The children loved them and they loved the children.



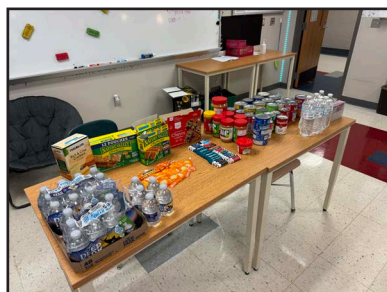
In January, they collected food that could be put in a paper bag to be distributed from the Student Services store for fellow students with food in-security. They included

notes of encouragement. They plan to continue this endeavor and collaborate with other student clubs at the high school.

In February, they created pocket hearts to remind fellow students and teachers that they are important in the world. These hearts can be carried with the individual as a constant reminder of others caring about them.

This Club has done all this while navigating the restraints of money and school policies. They have met with the administration throughout the process. Their planning and hard work has yielded a better understanding of others in our world.

They truly do lead with heart!



Wake Forest Optimist JOI Club members making snacks bags for students that are food insecure. The bags had soups, tuna, and peanut butter in them, in addition to the snacks.



Wake Forest Optimist guiding JOI Club members making crafts and playing games with the Shop with a Cop children



Optimist Junior Golf David C Jennings, Henderson Club

Greetings Optimists,

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championship is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world.



Each year, more than 600 golfers participate in the championship. Optimists have been involved in the sport of junior golf for more than 30 years by holding local, regional, and international tournaments. The championship consists of qualifiers and culminates with the championship at Trump National Doral Resort and Spa in Miami, FL.

Our NC East Qualifier final preparations will be completed soon. The first year we had 7 golfers go on to Doral. Last year, we had 4 golfers make the trip.

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

Thanks for all your help.

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

THE OPTIMIST 
International Junior Golf Championships

Leadership Development

Rebecca Lakey, Garner



Happy New Year!

As a reminder, the PGI (Personal Growth & Involvement) Program is a 10-level personal and leadership development pathway within Optimist International. Each level requires completing specific activities inside the Optimist Institute, and certificates are awarded as you progress. Levels unlock sequentially.

Each level includes five recurring categories:

1. Involvement/Projects

You participate in, help plan, or lead service projects. Higher levels require coordinating major or multi-organization projects.

2. Knowledge of the Organization

You learn about Optimist International's mission, structure, foundations, and programs through lessons or videos, sometimes with short reflections.

3. Development as an Optimist

You complete lessons or attend Leadership Development Webinars, with summaries required at advanced levels.

4. Leadership Skills

You progress through lessons on communication, behavior, accountability, motivation, influence, and change.

5. Sharing Optimism

You bring guests, sponsor new members, assist with orientations, and eventually help build a new club.

Overall, the PGI program is designed to serve, learn about the organization, build leadership skills, grow personally, and share Optimism by bringing in and supporting new members.

For additional PGI information, go to the PGI section of the Optimist Leaders website or contact the Leadership Development Department at (800) 500-8130, ext. 261, or by e-mail at leadership@optimist.org.



Childhood Health & Wellness Ray Cockrell, Wilmington

A long-standing tradition of District East is to support child cancer patients and families by providing support to the Ronald McDonald Houses. Below is a wish list that will help them continue their program of love and care. You and/or your club may want to consider taking up a collection. If you choose to do so, I am happy to come and pick up any items that have been

collected and deliver them for you.

I stand ready to help where you need me!

Ray



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

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

Kitchen Items

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

Household Supplies

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

Gift Cards

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

Baby Items

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



Amazon
Wish List



Target
Wish List

Deliver to:

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

Contact Us!

info@rmhcenc.org

Membership

Angela Iwaniuk, Bennett



Optimist Membership is Important Share the importance with Others!

Optimist Club membership carries a kind of quiet power that's easy to underestimate. At its heart, joining an Optimist Club means choosing to be part of a community that believes in possibility - especially for young people.



Optimists don't just talk about making a difference; **they roll up their sleeves and do it!** Whether it's supporting local schools, mentoring students, organizing youth programs, creating fun activities for kids, or feeding the food insecure children in our community, members become catalysts for hope in our own neighborhoods. That sense of purpose is energizing, and it gives every member a chance to see the direct impact of our time and compassion.

Membership also strengthens the individual. Being surrounded by people who intentionally practice optimism—who look for solutions, encourage one another, and focus on what is possible rather than what's broken—has a way

of reshaping your own outlook. It becomes easier to lead with positivity, to stay resilient during challenges, and to bring out the best in others.

Many members say the friendships we form are just as meaningful as the service they provide. There's something special about belonging to a group that celebrates kindness, lifts each other up, and works together toward a shared mission.

Finally, Optimist membership keeps communities connected. In a world where people often feel isolated, the club becomes a hub of collaboration—linking families, schools, local leaders, and volunteers.

It reminds everyone that optimism isn't naïve; it's a **choice** to invest in the future. And when a group of people consistently makes that choice, the ripple effects can be extraordinary.



How we communicate to you:

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



Oratorical Contest Timothy Johnson

We are excited as the Oratorical Contests around the District are being held.

The Topic for the 2025-2026 Optimist year is: **"The Moment I Realized I Belonged — My Definition of Community".**

The contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) and who have not yet completed high school. There is no minimum age.

Interested students submit a speech on the pre-assigned topic to their local Optimist Club. To find out the contact in your area, please e-mail the District Oratorical Chairperson, Timothy Johnson, at: NCEastGovernorTimothyJohnson@gmail.com



**North Carolina East District Q1 Meeting
November 1, 2025
Lake Waccamaw, NC**

Opening

9:30am – Ringing of Optimist Bell

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Optimist Year! –

Governor Timothy welcomed attendees and launched into the 2025-2026 Optimist year.

Governor Timothy Johnson led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees recited the Optimist Creed in unison.

Prayer requests were received. Sandy Cyphers asked the District to pray for the state of the Optimist International Organization, regarding diminishing members and disbanding clubs. Linda Shepherd asked for prayer for the staff and residents of the Boys and Girls Home of NC. Please be in prayer for the staff and residents at the Home, after the horrifying and sad deaths of foster parents allegedly by their foster son. And Gary Pender asks for the District to keep Louwanna in prayer during her cancer treatments.

Icebreaker: Gov. Timothy led an icebreaker activity.

First-timers attending – None.

Past Governors attending –

Dale Hoffert, Sandy Cyphers, Dave Griffiths, Terry Corle, Angela Iwaniuk, Linda Shepherd.

Vice Presidents attending –

Dale Hoffert, Sandy Cyphers, Terry Corle and Dave Griffiths.

Motion to Adopt Agenda

- **Motion to accept** – Angela Iwaniuk

- 2nd – Sandy Cyphers

Unanimously Approved

Minutes from Last Meeting:

- Motion to accept – Shana Bunn

- 2nd – David Jennings

Unanimously Approved

Honoring of Veterans: Timothy honored Military Veterans and presented a certificate to each Veteran in attendance.

OI President Tom Kendo video was presented.

In the video, President Tom thanked Optimist members for their hard work. He stressed that there are challenges we have to face, with dwindling numbers and organizational structure, such as Club-Zone-District. Technology and age demographics make the current structures potentially unfeasible for the long term. So, OI staff is weighing options to explore, including expanding online clubs and young adult clubs. He also emphasized the importance of each member taking responsibility to “Be the Change” we want to see in the world.

Boys and Girls Homes of NC – President Marc Murphy delivered remarks. He spoke about his past, working with BGHNC in the 90’s. He grew up with the Home and is passionate about expanding its presence and its future. He also spoke about the tragedy that took place on the campus the prior week. He said his staff and residents were unharmed, but they are emotionally sensitive.

Q4 Financial Report – District Treasurer Terry Corle Terry reports the financial report will be sent in a forthcoming email. He provided a verbal summary. The proposed 2025-26 budget has yet to be approved in Executive Committee.

Currently we have \$16,000 in receipts. We have spent \$17,000. Revenue is down, due to decreasing membership. There is a problem with last year’s allotments from OI. We were supposed to receive the allotment twice, but we only received it one time. Terry will look into it and try to rectify the discrepancy.

- Motion to accept financial report – Gary Pender

- 2nd – Angela Iwaniuk

Unanimously Approved

Committee Reports:

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT: Angela Iwaniuk reported that the current District population is 576, as of September. lost 122 members last year, while gaining 72. Two new clubs were built. In September, 5 new members were gained: 4 in East Wake and 1 in Orange County. Angela awarded the GOAT award to the Wilson Golden Circle since they had six members at the meeting.

NEW CLUB BUILDING: Timothy Johnson advised that there are no imminent club building efforts, however, we would like to revisit previous efforts. Specifically, these are prospective areas to explore: Outer Banks, Apex, RTP, and Fuquay-Varina.

ESSAY CONTEST: Timothy Johnson referred people to read the article submission from Essay Chairperson Liz Griffiths. The deadline is February 28, 2026.

ORATORICAL CONTEST: Timothy Johnson informed that the 2026 topic is “The Moment I Realized I Belonged - My Definition of Community.” Don’t be afraid or leery of hosting an oratorical contest. For judges, reach out to Toastmasters or colleges or local media.

JUNIOR GOLF: Dave Jennings. This past June was my 2nd year as chair.

For the last two years we worked with the Carolina Golf Association for a boy’s qualifier tournament. We will try to add a Peggy Kirk Bell Golf Tour event to host a girls tournament this year. The OI tournament will be held at Trump Doral in Miami, FL. Please contact Dave via email if you would be willing to volunteer. Please let us know if

your local Club would be able to donate towards the Golf Tournament in June.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY: Sandy Cyphers announced an incentive for any members donating towards Women's Philanthropy. She will put their name in a drawing for \$200. Donors will receive the Women's Philanthropy pin. She also offered an incentive for members contributing at the Dime-A-Day (\$36.50/year) level. Members will be entered in a drawing each quarter. They will have the opportunity to win a \$100 prize. Dime-A-Day donors receive a newly designed pin each year.

OI FOUNDATION: Gary Pender (with Sandy Cyphers) – I am looking for Dime-A-Day members, Women's Philanthropy members, Presidents Club members and much more. Here is your chance to help a young lady or young man get a scholarship for college. As you can see from the pictures, we have some beautiful pins this year and I would love to see you all wearing one or all three pins. Dime-A-Day is \$36.50. Women's Philanthropy is \$100.00 and the Presidents Club is \$250.00. Let's show how much we support the OI foundation this year and be in the top 10 in the Foundation. I will be calling on you for your help so let's get going. Please invite me to your club to help acquire more donations. Bill Teague, in the NC West District, was able to procure approximately \$80,000 in donations. We can do a lot in our District as well! Our goals are: 125 Dime-A-Day members, 15 Women's Philanthropy members, 14 President's Club, and 3 Christian D. Larson members!

Zone Reports

ZONE 1: Bennie Bass –There are 3 clubs that are very active. Winter Park is planning to close down Fall ball. They will be selling Christmas trees. Cape Fear Club had a successful car show, with over 150 cars! The focus is to maintain the membership and try to gain a few new members.

ZONE 2: Tom Lamont (Report by Timothy Johnson) – Elizabethtown Optimist Club meets once a month. They have a sports program with kids' soccer, basketball, volleyball, and baseball. They are working to increase their membership through the soccer program. The Club will be selling Christmas trees as their major fundraiser. Laurinburg Optimist Club just completed another Fish Fry in October. They have a golf tournament scheduled for November 19th. They will also be selling Christmas trees beginning in November. They added a couple of members in the 4th Quarter. (Tom Lamont resigned from Zone 2 Lt. Governor. The District is working on a replacement.)

ZONE 3: Robin Murtha – The Bennett club had "Kisses for Cancer" and a fundraiser at Cups of Joy to help a family with a child who has cancer. "Kisses for Cancer" raised \$1800, allowing them to help 2 more kids. In Goldsboro, they made goody bags for high school seniors. They also

held a popcorn fundraiser for 2 events in Goldsboro. They also collected stuffed animals for their "Shop with a Cop" event! The Goldsboro Club is working in a school with EFNEP - which is Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program! Golden Circle had a successful golf tournament and has Adopt-A-Family coming up soon.

ZONE 4: Lt. Gov. position is vacant – Timothy gave a rundown from recent social media posts: Roanoke Rapids held another successful Boston Butt BBQ sale. Purchases help fund their annual Halloween Carnival, Easter Egg Hunt, scholarships and T-ball/Coach pitch seasons. The Halloween Carnival was held at TJ Davis Recreation Center. Volunteers from Roanoke Rapids Early College High School assisted greatly. They also had a booth at the Halifax Harvest Days festival.

ZONE 5: David Jennings – Orange County Optimist Club is back in good standing. David will be trying to get Orange County Optimist Club President Craig Lloyd to a district meeting. Wake Forest raised money for the crop walk. Culver's was also a fund raiser for the crop walk. We held a Quarter Frenzy auction where I was the MC. Henderson club doing their thing. Sponsoring the orphanage in Oxford, NC for the Christmas party, Had a fish fry. Northern Wake Club had a Mile of Hope project. three clubs are super active and two are still trying to get going. There is a JOI club at Wake Tech. I'm really proud of what Zone 5 is doing.

ZONE 6: Lt. Gov. Tony Derico was not present. Tracy Thomas - Garner Club – Sponsored the Battle of the bands, (a kid friendly event with food trucks) and whoever is the President can address the crowd during intermission. We have a new member joining. We had a Golf Tournament in October and will have a Christmas tree sale as well. The Garner Optimist Club is a sponsor of the Garner Christmas parade. They handle floats and organize the parade. They would like to hand out popcorn and hot chocolate in the future.

Governor Timothy – it's officially known as the Garner Optimist Christmas Parade!

Timothy Johnson reported for the Raleigh Optimist Club – They are doing Christmas Tree sales this year again, at the Raleigh Optimist Farm, outside of Fuquay-Varina and Apex. Renting out the property is the biggest source of income for the Raleigh Club. We've had two deaths of members in the past few months and lost another, who no longer has the ability to be an active member. However, we gained a new Friend of Optimist (FOO)!

Gail Craft reported for East Wake – We are continuing to feed the kids in Zebulon 2x/month. We will be applying for grants again and also seeking sponsors from the local business community.

Governor Elect: David Jennings – Use what you have and do what you can. As Governor Elect, I am very honored. Because of your kindness and love, I am taking the step forward. My Q1 meeting is 11/6 & 11/7 at the Boys and Girls Homes, and I am still ironing out details. Q2 meeting will be in Wake Forest. Q3 meeting will be in Smithfield by the outlets. The Q4 Convention I will have Sandy Cyphers run with it. Thank you to my future cabinet members. My platform will be R&R - Recruitment and Retention. I am here to support Timothy 100% in everything that he does.

Mid-Atlantic Region VP: Dale Hoffert – Optimist Leaders, please check your status on your bylaws. All info is on the Optimist website. Go to member resources and check out the process. The website has an example. Must update bylaws every year. Timothy said one of the clubs is helping and visiting another club in the southeast region at Converse, SC. If you haven't seen it, they host their St Patrick's Day parade in Myrtle Beach. It's wonderful and the pack people in there. Visit another region! Thank you for having me here.

12:10 – Lunch break; Girls and staff members from the Optimist Cottage joined the delegation for lunch, then took us over to the Cottage for a tour.

1:30 – International VP Dale led several members in a training session on the new system for tracking events, activities, and fundraisers. The new system replaces the Club Pride Report.

Meeting Attendance Roster:

Timothy Johnson
Dannelle Johnson
Dale Hoffert
Colleen Hoffert
Gail Craft
Terry Corle
David Jennings
Robin Murtha
Bennie Bass
John Shepherd
Linda Shepherd
Sandy Cyphers
Will Iwaniuk
Angela Iwaniuk
Tracie Thomas
Gary Pender
Louwanna Pender
Shana Bunn

End of Meeting
Optimist Creed
Adjourn 2:30 pm

Always
believe
that
something
wonderful
is about to
happen!

Friend of Youth!



Draft Budget/ North Carolina East District 2025 - 2026

Account Name Receipts	Budgeted Receipts	1st Qtr Receipts	2nd Qtr Receipts	3rd Qtr Receipts	4th Qtr Receipts	Actual Receipts	Difference
#100 Dues	\$ 9,312.00	\$ 2,698.50			\$ -	\$ 2,698.50	\$ (6,613.50)
#105 Corporate Partners						\$ -	\$ -
#110 Allotment OI	\$ 582.00					\$ -	\$ (582.00)
#120 Dist Convention	\$ 3,000.00					\$ -	\$ (3,000.00)
#130 Dist Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 595.00				\$ 595.00	\$ (2,405.00)
#145 Jr. Golf		\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
#150 Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#160 Optimist Store	\$ 400.00	\$ 461.00				\$ 461.00	\$ 61.00
#190 OI Foundation Auction						\$ -	\$ -
#191 Auction B & G Home						\$ -	\$ -
#192 Fifty Fifty	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#650 Transfer Prev Admin	\$ 13,416.00	\$ 13,287.73				\$ 13,287.73	\$ (128.27)
#800 CCDHH	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 30,410.00	\$ 17,142.23			\$ -	\$ 17,142.23	\$ (13,267.77)

Account Name Disbursements	Budgeted Disbursements	1st Qtr Disbursements	2nd Qtr Disbursements	3rd Qtr Disbursements	4th Qtr Disbursements	Actual Disbursements	Difference
#200 Governor	\$ 2,500.00				\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,500.00)
#210 Lt. Governors	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 355.40				\$ 355.40	\$ (1,444.60)
#250 District Secretary	\$ 300.00					\$ -	\$ (300.00)
#252 District Treasurer	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#255 Governor Elect	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#260 Immediate Past Gov. OI Conv. *						\$ -	\$ -
#261 Past Governor	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#262 B & G Home Chair	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#283 New Club Building	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#265 Committee Chairs	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 230.20				\$ 230.20	\$ (2,269.80)
#300 Clerical/Secretary						\$ -	\$ -
#301 Postage	\$ 50.00					\$ -	\$ (50.00)
#320 Office Supplies	\$ 300.00					\$ -	\$ (300.00)
#330 District Bulletin	\$ 500.00	\$ 291.93				\$ 291.93	\$ (208.07)
#331 Web Page	\$ 325.00	\$ 371.76				\$ 371.76	\$ 46.76
#340 District Directory	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#350 District Convention	\$ 5,000.00					\$ -	\$ (5,000.00)
#360 District Meetings	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 885.89				\$ 885.89	\$ (2,114.11)
#361 Lt Governor's Conf.						\$ -	\$ -
#370 Oratorical Contest	\$ 1,000.00					\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
#371 CCDHH Contest	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#380 Jr. Golf	\$ 2,000.00					\$ -	\$ (2,000.00)
#390 Essay Contest	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#400 Badges & Pins Officers	\$ 300.00	\$ 446.68				\$ 446.68	\$ 146.68
#410 Awards Current Year	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#411 Awards, Past Year	\$ 500.00	\$ 346.13				\$ 346.13	\$ (153.87)
#420 Audit/Bank Charges	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#421 Audit Review 990	\$ 100.00					\$ -	\$ (100.00)
#430 Merchandise / Optimist Store	\$ 300.00	\$ 42.65				\$ 42.65	\$ (257.35)
#440 NCB Supplies	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#441 Membership	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	\$ (900.00)
#442 A & A	\$ -					\$ -	\$ -
#443 Personal Growth						\$ -	\$ -
#444 Childhood Health	\$ 750.00					\$ -	\$ (750.00)
#446 Leadership Develop	\$ 250.00					\$ -	\$ (250.00)
#447 OI Foundation	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#448 Boys & Girls Home	\$ 500.00					\$ -	\$ (500.00)
#450 Gifts (Guest)	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#470 Miscellaneous	\$ 2,385.00					\$ -	\$ (2,385.00)
#480 Previous Admin Exp	\$ 200.00					\$ -	\$ (200.00)
#490 Next Admin Exp						\$ -	\$ -
Total Disbursements	\$ 30,410.00	\$ 3,070.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,070.64	\$ (27,339.36)

* #260 Only if current Gov can't attend

YTD Summary

Total Receipts	\$ 30,410.00	\$ 17,142.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,142.23
Total Disbursements	\$ 30,410.00	\$ 3,070.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,070.64
		\$ 14,071.59				

Bank Balance End of 1st Qtr.

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Optimist

INTERNATIONAL

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