



**Cherie Gentry**  
**2016-2017 Ohio District Governor**



**Ohio District Optimist International**  
**October 2016 Edition**

## **My fellow Optimists**

**Wow! What a whirlwind of a weekend. Thank you to my entire team for making the First Quarter Conference a big success. I really could not have pulled it off without the great people of the Ohio District.**

**We revealed a new website and had some great training on membership along with lots of committee reports.**

**As I prepare for the February Conference I am looking for clubs of any size from anywhere in Ohio to send me information on their Community Service Projects. I would like to invite some clubs to come and share with the whole district what they are doing for the KIDS. I know that some people don't like to blow their own horns, but, there might be a club looking for a new project and you are just what they need to hear about.**

**I am personally inviting each and every member of the Ohio District Optimist to come to the February Conference and join me in learning what some of the clubs in our great district are doing for the youth in their communities. This conference will also be when Immediate Past Governor Brian McCormick will be awarding all of last years awards.**

**Just a reminder we will only be doing quarterly newsletters this year and they will come out after each conference.**

**Register Early for the 2nd quarter conference and see you in February!**

**Cherie Gentry, Governor  
Ohio District Optimist  
5038 St. Rt. 123  
Morrow, OH 45152  
513.850.1954**



# Check out our new website...

## Ohiodistrictoptimist.org

We have redesigned the website to use WordPress so that the site can be easier to maintain and be easier to view on mobile devices. As with any new undertaking, there will undoubtedly be bugs to work out. If you see any, please let me know so that we can get them promptly fixed.

Yours in optimism, Cherie Gentry, Governor

The 2016-17 Ohio District Handbook has been completed, but corrections are being made. **Almost** ready for distribution. You will be able to download the handbook (pdf) when corrections have been made **I will let you know**. It will require a passcode.

You can go to:

<http://ohiodistrictoptimist.org/secretary-treasurer-resources/ohio-district-handbook/>

## Passcode is kiss2017

Special thanks to District Secretary Jim Elder for his hard and dedicated work on the District Handbook

2016-2017

Ohio District Conferences & Convention Schedule

**2nd Quarter District Conference**

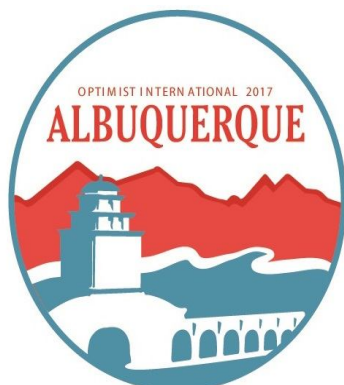
Columbus, OH February 10-11, 2017  
Embassy Suites Columbus— Dublin  
5100 Upper Metro Place  
Dublin, Ohio 43017  
Phone: (614) 790-9000

**3rd Quarter District Conference**

Columbus, OH May 5-6, 2017  
Embassy Suites Columbus— Dublin  
5100 Upper Metro Place  
Dublin, Ohio 43017  
Phone: (614) 790-9000

**4th Quarter District Conference/Convention**

Fairborn, OH August 10-13, 2017  
Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn  
2800 Presidential Dr  
Fairborn, Ohio 45324  
Phone: (937) 426-7800



**July 6-8, 2017**

**[Albuquerque Convention Center](#)**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

## Ohio District Scholarship Fund

### To All Ohio District Optimist Members:

Several times I have been asked, "Why do I continue to ask for donations to the Ohio District Scholarship Fund, when there is so much scholarship money shown in the budget?"

There are many past winners who have not yet claimed the District Scholarship supplements. These past winners have until they reach the age of 25 to enroll in a continuing education program and claim this money. This is the restricted money shown in the budget.

The Ohio District has pledged to supplement the Optimist International Foundation Scholarships for the Oratorical, Essay and CCDHH contests, with an additional \$1000 for each winner and \$100 for each District Oratorical and CCDHH runner-ups each year.

**This means that we must raise \$4,600 each year in order to meet this commitment.**

We need every club to help in this effort. A donation to the Ohio District Scholarship Fund may be sent to:

William J. O'Neil  
233 Broken Fence Drive  
Medina, Ohio 44256

Or

Brought to the next conference.

Thank you.

Bill O'Neil  
Scholarship Chair

**Please share this memo with all of your members!**

## Optimist International Essay Contest

Topic for the 2016-17 School Year is:

### "Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges"

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

The guidelines require that **contestants be under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2016 and attending school in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean**. Club winners advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. The District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations. The Ohio District of Optimist International also awards a \$1,000 college scholarship. The winner has until the age of 25 to claim their scholarships.

For complete information on this and other scholarship contests, please visit [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) – click Members – scroll down first column to Scholarship Contests.

**The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28, 2017.**

For more information, please contact:

**Sharon O'Neil, District Essay Chair**  
**233 Broken Fence Drive**  
**Medina, Ohio 44256**  
[oneil113@zoominternet.net](mailto:oneil113@zoominternet.net) or 330-722-7071



## Dear Club Presidents:

Congratulations for being chosen the President of your Optimist Club. This is a great honor.

When you appoint your committee chairs, please be sure to have an Essay Chairperson to run your club contest. **Once you have the Essay Committee Chairperson, please forward his/her complete information to me.** I will be using it this year with updates, if any, on the Essay Contest.

Here is some information on the Essay Contest.

**Topic for the 2016-17 School Year is:**

### **"Chasing Optimism in the Face of Challenges"**

**This contest requires students under 18 as of October 1, 2016 and who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean to compose a 700- to 800-word essay around a central idea. The contest is designed to develop writing and critical thinking skills. One scholarship of \$2,500 per District is awarded by Optimist International each year. Plus the Ohio District of Optimist International also awards a \$1,000.00 scholarship.**

For complete information on the Essay Contests, please go to [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) – click Members – scroll the first column and click Scholarship Contests. Then click on Essay Contest. You will find valuable information on this contest, including a Club Planning Guide.

**Deadline to submit your Club's winning Essay is February 28, 2017.**

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours in the Spirit of Optimism,

Sharon M. O'Neil, 2016-2017 Ohio District Essay Chair  
233 Broken Fence Drive  
Medina, Ohio 44256  
330-722-7071 or [oneil113@zoominternet.net](mailto:oneil113@zoominternet.net)



2nd Quarter Ohio District Optimist Conference  
February 10th & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## MEETING LOCATION

Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin OH 43017

## Registration Form

*One form per Member (please duplicate as necessary)*

Club Name: _____		Club No: _____	Zone No: _____
Name: _____		1 <sup>st</sup> Conference: Yes /No	
____ Optimist Member & a ____ Club Pres ____ Club S/T ____ Club Rep ____ Lt. Gov. ____ Dist Chair ____ Past Gov			
____ Non Club Member ____ FOO Mbr ____ JOOI Mbr Other: _____			
Guest Name: _____			
(Please complete attached additional guest form for children, youth and additional guest, everyone MUST be registered.)			

**Registration Options** (Please enter the number of persons in the NO. box below)

Received by		Received by		No.	Amount
Type Registration	1 January	30 January	5 February		
*Regular/Member Registration	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$50.00		
College Student Registration	25.00	30.00	\$35.00		
Youth Registration (Age 12 Thru 17)	20.00	20.00	\$20.00		
** Child Registration (Age Thru 11)	.00	.00			
<b>Options:</b>			Cost Per Person		
Saturday Evening Banquet Meal (with Hotel Reservation and Full Conference Registration)			\$40.00		
Saturday Evening Banquet Meal (with Conference Registration)			\$45.00		
Saturday Evening Banquet Meal ONLY			\$50.00		
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>					
Saturday Evening Meal choice: Please indicate meal choice for each member attending evening dinner _____ Top Sirloin Steak _____ _____ Grilled Fresh Salmon _____ _____ Eggplant Parmesan _____			<b>NOTES:</b> Please specify any dietary needs and indicate for which attending person:		

\*Registration fees covers facility rental fees, A/V services, coffee and beverage service for meetings, Hospitality room, printing and other fixed conference expenditures, and are in an amount sufficient to hold the conference.  
**Registration Fee includes LUNCH.**

All persons attending the conference **MUST** be registered, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Optimist members are required to pay the full registration or late registration, whether eating the lunch or not. Refunds can be given if cancellations are received, in writing by 1 February, 2017. Meal guarantees must be made to the caterer and refunds cannot be given after that date.

\*\*Children 11 years old and under are FREE with a fully paid Club Member/Parent. Meals will be age appropriate. Attendance and Awards records are based on paid member registration. **SATURDAY LUNCH RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID FOR, NO LATER THAN 5 February 2017. LUNCH & DINNER RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED WITH ONSITE REGISTRATIONS.**

*We would like to see a representative from each and every club present.*

Make checks payable to: **Ohio District Optimist International** and send along with this form to

Registration questions contact Barbara Layne at bglayne055@aol.com

(937) 256-6860

Duplicate this form as needed for additional registrations!

Barbara Layne  
Registration Chair  
145 Missouri Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45410-2015

2nd Quarter  
Ohio District Optimist Conference  
And  
Awards Banquet  
February 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Additional Guest/ Child or Youth Registration

(Please enclose with member registration and payment)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club No: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guest include: (Adult (A) (18 and up), Child (C) (Thru Age 11), Youth (Y) (Age 12 thru 17)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (A, C, Y)  
**For children and Youth:** Your relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (A, C, Y)  
**For children and Youth:** Your relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (A, C, Y)  
**For children and Youth:** Your relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (A, C, Y)  
**For children and Youth:** Your relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Children 11 years old and under are **FREE** with a fully paid Club Member/Parent.  
 Meals will be age appropriate.

➤ **Be sure to mail this form along with payment if required with your Member Registration Form**

**HOTEL RESERVATION FORM  
OHIO DISTRICT OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
2nd QUARTER CONFERENCE**

**February 10th and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Deadline for rooms is January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**MEETING LOCATION**

**Embassy Suites  
5100 Upper Metro Place  
Dublin, Ohio 43017**

**RATE: Single or Double occupancy - \$129.00, plus 17.50% tax**  
include the following:

**Complimentary Full Cooked to Order Breakfast** for guests staying overnight  
(Value \$10-\$15 per person per night)

**Complimentary Manager's Cocktail Reception** for guests staying overnight from  
5:30pm-7:30pm each evening with light snacks and beverages of your choice (a \$10-  
\$15 value per person)

**A Two-room Suite** where a roommate or spouse (if applicable) may go for increased  
privacy, in a separate room

**Wet Bar with Refrigerator, Microwave and Coffeemaker** in suite to prepare and  
store beverages and light snacks

**Complimentary Parking**

(1) Directly with Hotel at (614) 790-9000 and identify yourself as being with the Ohio District  
Optimist Conference;

**OR**

(2) By Mail, with credit card or one night's deposit by check, to Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper  
Metro Place, Dublin, Ohio 43017

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Check-in time is 4:00 P.M.

\*Check-out time is 12:00 Noon

**Register early. If you can not attend, you can always cancel 72 hours before check in  
without penalty.**



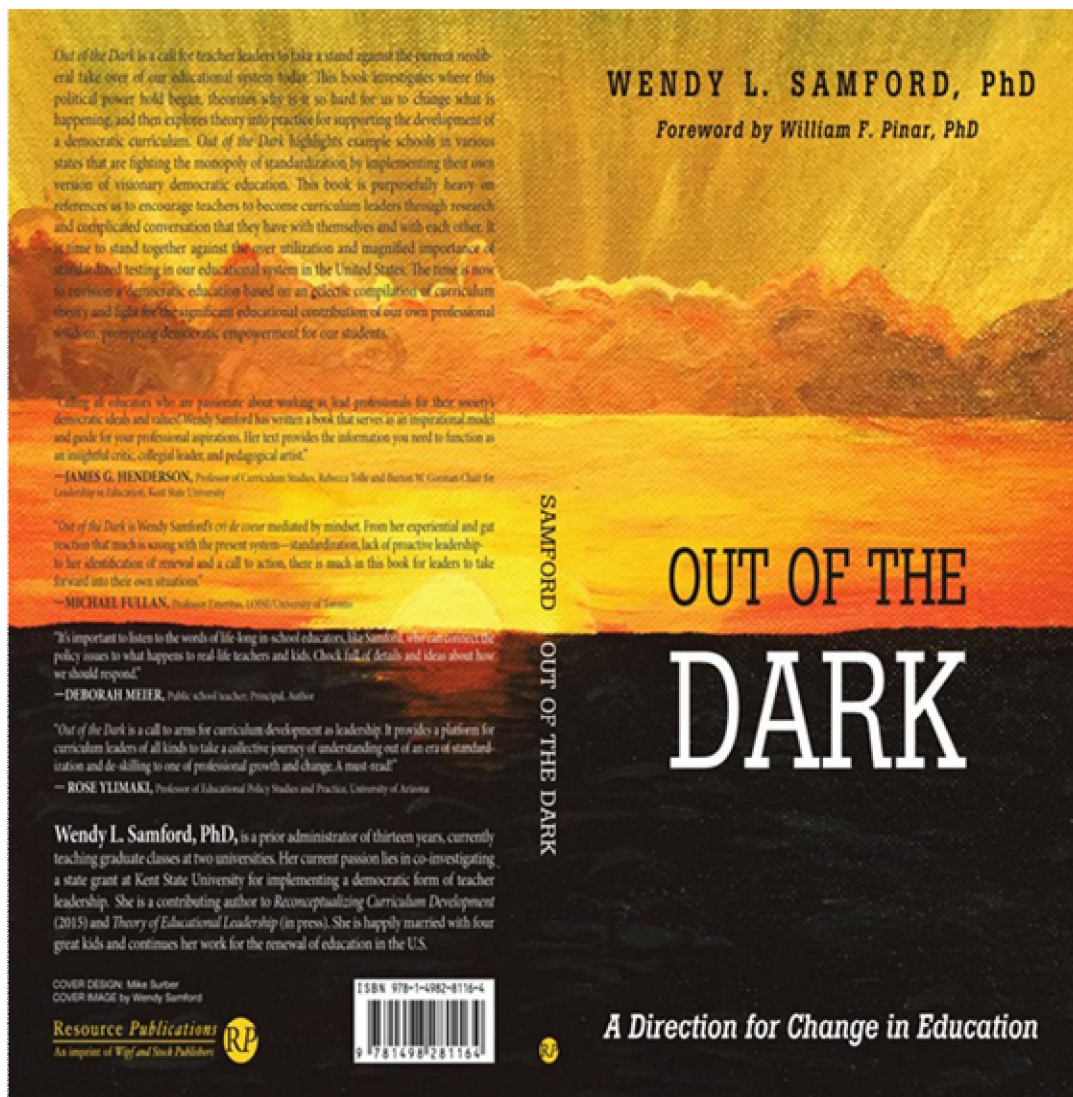


I have been an Optimist Club member for many years in the Boardman, Ohio branch. I have recently left my position as an administrator in my public school district to stay home and write a book about the over testing of our children in the United States. The book is entitled "**Out of the Dark: A Direction for Change in Education**" and I am hoping that the Optimist Club will help me to get this book into the hands of people that care about children by posting the press release or a short bio as to promote the other members reading this book. This is not about money (I make \$1.00 a book). I am truly motivated to get this book into the hands of as many people as possible to answer some tough questions about education in the U.S. I am attaching my press release, my picture, the book cover, and below I have written a short abstract of the book and a bio of me. Please let me know if you need further information or have any questions.

Thank you  
Wendy Samford, Ph.D.

Wendy Samford, Ph.D. is a prior administrator of 13 years currently teaching graduate classes at two universities. Her current passion lies in co-investigating a state grant at Kent State University for implementing a democratic form of teacher leadership. She recently authored the book *Out of the Dark: A Direction for Change in Education* (in press). She is a contributing author to *Reconceptualizing Curriculum Development* (2015), *Theory of Educational Leadership as Curriculum Work* (in press), and *Leading from a Feminist Soul* (in press). She is happily married with four great kids and continues her work for the renewal of education in the U.S. Visit [www.wsamford.com](http://www.wsamford.com) for more information.

**“This book was written for teachers and concerned citizens about the over standardization of our schools in the United States. It literally is a “Direction for Change” as it looks into how we arrived at this place we are in, theory behind why it is so hard for us to change this direction, illustrations of a more democratic way to educate our young people, example schools that are trying to break out of the mold and finally a call for teachers to take a professional stand together and stop the madness of over testing in our great country. As a prior teacher and administrator, I felt compelled to write this book in support of teachers leading their profession in a democratic direction.”**





SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 • JOURNAL-NEWS • COMPLETE, IN-DEPTH, DEPENDABLE.

FAIRFIELD

# Fairfield Optimist Club celebrates 60 years

By Michael D. Pitman  
Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — The Fairfield Optimist Club might be one of the city's best-kept secrets.

The club of about 90 members supports various aspects of the city, but quietly, said Fairfield Mayor Steve Miller, who is also a member.

"The Optimist Club does an awful lot for this community," he said. "The Optimist Club knows what they're doing and the recipients know what they're doing, and that's what's important. It's always been that way."

And to celebrate the club's 60 years of service to the city, Miller proclaimed Tuesday, Sept. 13, as "Optimist Club of Fairfield, Ohio 60th Anniversary Day" in the city and gave club president Jeff Herold a one-of-a-kind key to the city.

"We wanted to do something different, something special, and that's exactly what we came up with tonight," said Miller.

Instead of a standard key to the city, a special plaque was signed by all members of city council.

Herold said they are "just a group of guys that like to



Jeff Herold, president of the Fairfield Optimist Club, accepts honors bestowed on the club in celebration of its 60th anniversary from Fairfield Mayor Steve Miller (right) at the Monday city council meeting. CONTRIBUTED

give back."

"We appreciate being a small part of what makes this city great," he said. "We like to help the youth of the community, we enjoy it and we feel it's a good thing to do and we do it."

The Optimist Club is involved in youth in the community, following its motto "Friend of Youth." The club helped to introduce soccer

in the 1970s, and this past April co-sponsored the 31st annual MASC tournament in which 500 teams from eight states and Canada participated.

The club also sponsors youth baseball and soccer teams, awards three college scholarships to area seniors, sponsors events and organizations supporting the youth, such as fishing derbies, after

## MEETING

The Fairfield Optimist Club meets every Thursday at 8 p.m., though members begin to socialize at 7 p.m. at 194 Joe Nuxhall Way.

proms for Fairfield and Badin high schools, Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, One Way Farm. The club also adopts needy children at Christmas and arranges a personal delivery from Santa.

Being around for 60 years "means we're doing something right," and the club has some "luck" on its side, said Herold.

"If feels great to carry on that tradition," he said.

The Optimist Club is a men's club and its mission is to "bring out the best in kids" by conducting positive service projects. The club works with the Paragon Optimist Club, which is a women's club that was founded in 2004.

Contact this reporter at 513-820-2175 or email Michael.Pitman@coxinc.com.



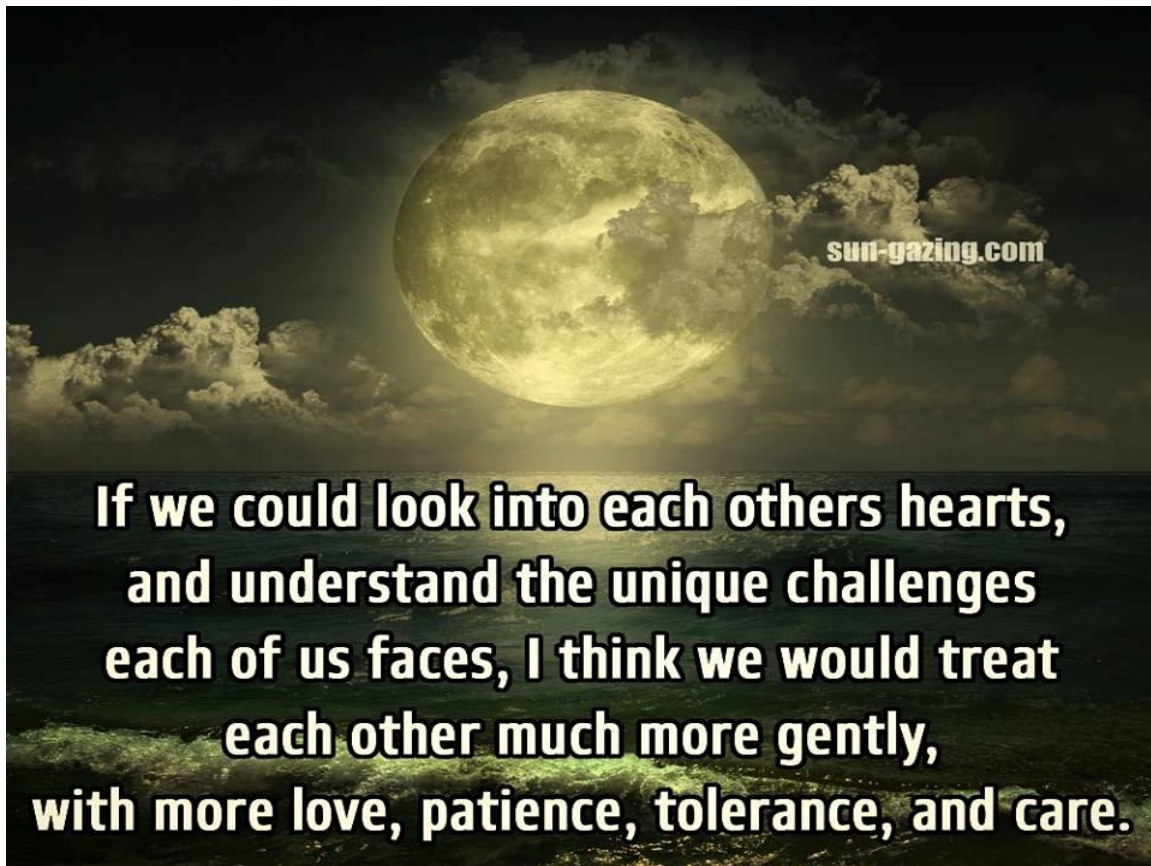
## Passing of the Gavel







**The  
2016-17  
Ohio District  
Optimist Year  
Begins**



From The



of the Ohio District Bulletin Editor Darrel Basford

We are always looking for items to include in the District Newsletter each publication. These items can be from Clubs, Committee Chairs and members. If you have something to share with us please send these items to Darrel Basford at [darrelbasford@att.net](mailto:darrelbasford@att.net) . FYI Governor Cherie Gentry would like the bulletin to go out quarterly after each District Conference