



Cherie Gentry
2016-2017 Ohio District Governor



Ohio District Optimist International
September 2017 Edition

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This will be my last bulletin as the Ohio District Bulletin Editor. I have enjoyed my role as your District Bulletin Editor. I've served under 8 outstanding Governors, but feel it is time to step down. I feel very bad that I have let our incoming Governor, Tom Kendo, down. Please forgive.

In the past 8 years, the Ohio District has went from just sending the bulletin to Club Officers, District Officers, District Chairpersons, Lt Governors and Past Governors, but to **ALL Ohio District Optimists** who have supplied Optimist International with a valid e-mail address.

I hope that the members of the Ohio District have enjoyed receiving your District Bulletin. I've tried to fill it with important Ohio District news in order to keep the membership up to speed.

I wish the new District Bulletin Editor, Pete Gabriel, good luck and will be available to help in any way I can.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Ohio District, the greatest service organization in the world.

Yours in Optimism,

Darrel Basford

OPTIMIST STRONG

“Be the Difference”

As Governor-Designate for the Great Ohio District of Optimist International, I agree with the goal of our President-Designate Nick Prillaman to create an environment of empowerment throughout the District, which provides our leadership and each of our members a level of fulfillment that exceeds any of our competition. Providing knowledge, inspiration, guidance and support will develop a strong organization from the top down, enabling it to sustain itself and continue to strengthen Optimist International.



The training of my team will be held at two conferences, the first in August at the District Convention for incoming Lt Governors, Club Presidents and Secretary/Treasurers, and the second at the Optimist Strong Conference in October, 2017, for the entire team. Our team strength will be to start strong and attack growth, leadership development, team building and marketing Optimism. At each of these sessions, my goals will be clearly defined, in hopes that it will make our clubs more successful.

Optimist Strong-Be the Difference”, will be my motto for the Great Ohio District in the 2017-2018 Optimist year. I want every Ohio Optimist to be Optimist Strong and I want every one of them to be the difference. By being the difference, every Ohio Optimist will make the Ohio District great again.

I will have fun and fellowship at every single meeting, conference and Convention in the Great Ohio District in 2017-2018. If it is not fun to volunteer to help children, and be a part of an organization of like minded individuals, then no one will want to be an Ohio Optimist. I am the Optimist most into fun and fellowship in the Great Ohio District, and everyone knows that, yet they elected me to be your Governor.

Get ready to have fun!

Tom Kendo
Ohio District Governor
2017-2018



OHIO DISTRICT MEETING DATES 2017-2018

October 20 - 21, 2017

1st Qtr Optimist Strong District Conference
Embassy Suites Dublin
Columbus, OH

February 9 - 10, 2018

2nd Qtr District Conference & Awards Banquet
Embassy Suites Dublin
Columbus, OH

May 4 - 5, 2018

3rd Qtr District Conference
Embassy Suites Dublin
Columbus, OH

August 16 - 18, 2018

District Convention & Officer Elect Training
Holiday Inn Fairborn
Fairborn, OH

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING DATES 2017-2018

February 3, 2018
Leadership Summit
St Louis, MO

June 27- 29, 2018
Oratorical World Championship
St Louis, MO

July 5 - 7, 2018
JOI International Convention
Ottawa, Ontario

July 8 - 10, 2018
100th Optimist International Convention
Ottawa, Ontario

July 19 - August 9, 2018
International Junior Golf Championships
PGA National Resort & Spa
Palm Beach Gardens, FL



The Austintown Optimist Invite You To Join Us As We Honor

Dean Ferris

for his 62 years as an Outstanding Optimist

With A Very Special Dinner

Saturday October 14, 2017 6 PM

Rachel's Restaurant

\$25 per person .. \$200 per table of eight / Cash Bar

Checks to Austintown Optimist c/o

Joann Sulenski, 6300 Fairview Rd

Austintown, Ohio 44515

Registrations due by October 3, 2017

Only 90 Reservations Available

Optimist International Foundation

The Great Ohio District has continually been great contributors to the OI Foundation. Through the August District Convention we have contributed \$19,500 – which is great; however we have a goal of \$22,650. So we are a little short and I need your help. If you or your club have not made a contribution please do so before September 30th.

Everyone can find a way to support the Foundation because it only takes a dime a day. Under the Dime a Day program (<http://www.oifoundation.org/individuals.html>) it only takes \$0.70/week, \$3.00/month or \$36.50/year for individuals to support our youth through the OI Foundation. Clubs can utilize the \$365/year program and receive a commemorative banner patch (<http://www.oifoundation.org/clubs.html> and select 365 Club). Any amount no matter how large or small can help us achieve our goal.

The OI Foundation supports Optimist International and its international programs with scholarships for the oratorical contest, essay contest and the communication for the deaf & hard of hearing; youth leadership and service programs, club grants and many other programs. Every year the Great Ohio District receives \$12,500 in scholarship funds to award to our Ohio essay, oratorical and CCDHH contest winners. Over 1.5 million youth are served annually through programs funded by the OI Foundation.

I urge everyone to make a donation –we have 45 days left to achieve our goal – let's make it happen!! Donations can be completed online @ <http://www.oifoundation.org/us-canada-donate.html> or send your check made payable to OI Foundation to OI Foundation P.O. Box 952126 St. Louis, MO 63195.

If you or your club needs more information please contact me, Jennifer Kendo, Ohio District Foundation Representative @ Kendolaw@gmail.com or check out OIF website @ <http://www.oifoundation.org/>

Free Membership for Graduating JOI Seniors



In order to help students remain Optimists, Optimist International is offering all Junior Optimists graduating from high school a free membership for any adult or college Optimist Club. Your Club will not be billed a \$15.00 processing fee OR international dues for a full calendar year. This is a great opportunity for all Optimist Clubs. Please encourage any graduating Junior Optimists to take advantage of this opportunity by joining either their local Club, or a Club where they will be attending college. If your Club has a graduating Junior Optimist senior who wishes to take advantage of this offer, contact member-ship@optimist.org or call 800-500-8130 ext. 226.

New Club Building

To ALL Optimists:

This is a GREAT opportunity for a club, a President and/or a Lt. Governor to become DISTINGUISHED.

Please read the **New Club Building Committee Report**. If you have any questions, please contact me..

I shared a few bits of information at the February District Conference. First, you do not need to submit a New Club Building Permission slip; second, the club within a club can be made up of past optimists, new recruits, college students, 30 under 30 and FOO's (Friend of Optimists).

Thank you for your attention to this important change in Optimist International Policy.

Bill O'Neil
New Club Building Chair

NEW CLUB BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the New Club Building Committee was presented to the Board of Directors by Jim Boyd for Committee Chair Jim Oliver

Club Within A Club

Rationale:

The Committee is endorsing an initiative to promote the development of a "**Club Within a Club**" modeled after the successful young professional's club that is a part of the Lake Lotawanna Optimist Club in the West Missouri District.

Many long standing Clubs have difficulty in attracting younger members. Work force changes have made it difficult for some potential members to attend traditional breakfast or lunch style Club meetings. Social and cultural changes, episodic volunteering and mission/project driven focus presents new opportunities that may be addressed in creative meeting and operational style. The **Social Club or Club Within a Club** would meet once or twice a month in a more social setting in early evenings, with a focus on networking and social gathering. The young professionals group provides a traditional Club with an increased volunteer work force to tackle more complex project. It also will provide a platform for younger professionals to join an Optimist Club for their goals of networking, social activity with the availability of volunteering for activities of interest and impact in the Community.

New Club Building credit would be given to any existing Optimist Club that adds 15 members for the **Club Within a Club. Two Builders of Excellence designations would also be granted.** The Secretary-Treasurer of the host Club must submit a roster of at least 15 members for the group to be recognized and it is recommended the new group have representation on the existing Club's Board. Regular dues will apply and the 30 under 30 program can be used for the development process. While the program was launched with the provision that members of this new group must not have been an Optimist member for the 12-month period prior to the new Club's formation, the New Club Building Committee believes that is too long. It supports a period of four months before a former Optimist would become eligible for this new program.

The Committee encourages the Board to consider making this adjustment to the program.

Motion adopted: Creswell/Paquette

That the OI Board of Directors modify the **"Club Within a Club"** Initiative to allow former members of Optimist International to be a part of the new group after four months have elapsed since membership ceased. Budget Impact: None

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

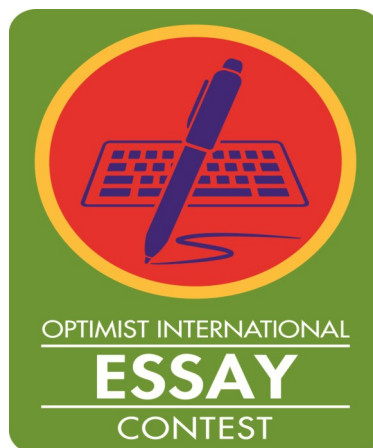
Please share this memo with all of your members



The topic for the 2017-2018 Oratorical and CCDHH

Contest will be:

Where are My Roots of Optimism?



The topic for the 2017-2018 Essay Contest will be:

Can Society Function Without Respect?

Oratorical Contest Regional Chairs, and Lt. Governors – Elects

I just received this email from Dana Thomas with OI informing everyone that all Oratorical Contests will be non-gender contests effective October 1, 2018 – one more year of boys and girls. Please see below:

Debe Dockins, 2016-17 Ohio District Oratorical Chair

Dear Governors-Elect and US and CAR Oratorical Chairs:

I wanted to let you know as soon as possible about a change in the Oratorical Rules that the Board of Directors just approved this morning. **Effective October 1, 2018 all Oratorical Contests will be non-gender contests.** The 2017-2018 Contest will proceed with no changes to the rules other than all speeches are to be timed at the first word spoken and the topic must be spoken in the first sentence of the speech.

Please let me know if you have any questions. The Planning Guides and applications for all 17-18 contests should be posted on our website by next week.

Dana L. Thomas

Sr. Director of Programs & Administrative Support

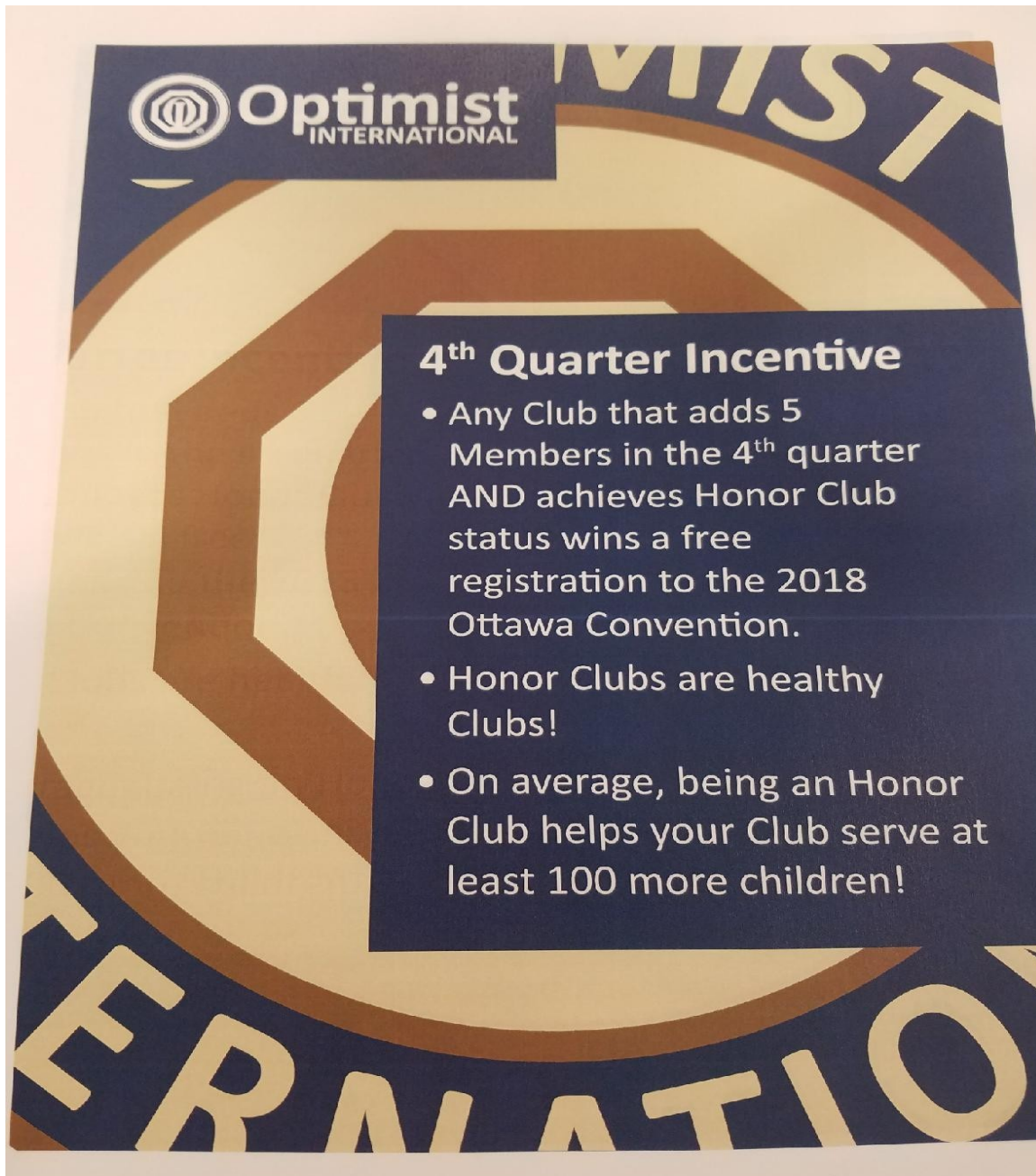
Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

Email: programs@optimist.org

Phone: 800.500.8130 x 201

Fax: 314.371.6006

Optimist International 4th Quarter Membership Incentive



NOT TOO LATE

2017 Ohio District Convention





I have placed a link on the District website to all the photos (and there are a lot of them) from the 2017 District Convention in Fairborn.

<http://www.ohiodistrictoptimist.org/conventions/>

Greg Griffin
gfg45342@outlook.com

CHILDHOOD CANCER

The information below was sent to me by Willy Hanlon, President of the Springboro Club of Zone 14.

There's an exciting event happening in our area on October 1st and we invite you to join!

Northwestern Mutual—Dayton will be hosting its 4th annual Zest for Life 5k at the Oak Grove Park benefiting the Dayton Lemon Society, a local organization fighting against **childhood cancer**. Our goal is to partner with the Dayton community to raise \$25,000 and have 500 people participate. I believe that teaming together will make this goal a reality.

This is an organization that my family, team, and company are extremely passionate about! Registration is now open! The race will take place at **Oak Grove Park on Sunday, October 1st with a 9:00am start time.**

Go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Centerville/ZestforLife5kWalkandRun> for more information.

You may join in the run, walk or simply donate to show your support.

We truly appreciate each and every one of you and hope to see you and your families at the park! If you have any questions, please give me a call or email!

Take care,

William J. Hanlon | President: Springboro Optimist Club
P: 937-427-7183 | F: 937-427-7121 | C: 937-609-5933

WHEN I DIE

When this ol' body Earthly-bound takes slow its final breath;
Don't say I'm dead or died, my friends;
I've only just met Death.
But shake his hand and on I'll fly, forever living; I'll never die!
Alive in Christ, I've just moved on- from life to life; through death passed on.
Don't grieve for me or shed a tear- because in this my Lord is near.
Rejoice with me- I'm Heaven-bound!
'Tis just a shell there in the ground.
My heart, my mind, my soul is free! In Christ alive, eternally!
I went not sadly knowing this; that Christ takes me to Heaven's bliss.
So weep not friend, or brother dear-
I am not dead! I'm just not here!

Mindy Basford

"O' Death, where is thy sting? O' grave where is thy victory?"

1 Corinthians 15:55



Project “Respect for Law”

“The Police Are My Heroes” Poster Contest

Austintown Optimist Club

For the second year in a row the Austintown Optimist have brought the **“Respect For Law”** program to, what we believe is, a higher level by recognizing all law enforcement personnel rather than just a Law Enforcement Officer of The Year.

With the co-operation of our local police and the faculty of Austintown Intermediate School we were successful in bringing the message of Non-Violence and Respect for Law to approximately 1,200 Third, Fourth and Fifth grade students last year, 2016 and again this year 2017.

The program was presented to each class during their lunch hour by the Austintown Police Chief, The School Safety Officer, The Principals of each Grade and members of the Austintown Optimist. A “The Police Are My Heroes” flyer outlining the program, was given to every student to read and take home to their parents.

Basically, each student is given several weeks to create a “The Police Are My Heroes” Poster.

The entries are judged by Faculty, The Police Chief and The Austintown Optimist members at one of our dinner meetings.

A First Place Winner was selected from each of the 3 grades and recognized at school where they were presented with Winners Certificates.

(Every student who entered received a “Participation Certificate”)



The three winning students, their parents and family members were invited to one of our dinner meetings where they were recognized and sworn in as Honorary Austintown Police Officers for A Day. Received Proclamations from the Mahoning County Commissioners and were presented with an Amazon \$25 Gift Certificate from our club.

Both years, the dinner was covered by all 3 local TV stations and the project received recognition by our local newspaper The Vindicator and by several radio stations.

The tributes didn't end there for our winners who were honored at a regular meeting of the Austintown Township Trustees. All the entries were then displayed for the entire summer at the Eastwood Mall.

Through this poster contest we have exposed around 2,000 young Intermediate

School age children and encouraged them to Honor and Respect Our Law Enforcement Officers. It also gave the program and the Austintown Optimist additional and much need exposure.

Old saying, true meaning "A Win, Win" for EVERYBODY.

Pete Gabriel
Austintown Optimist Club
330-261-2598
psg@zoominternet.net



THE TRAIN: At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you all a joyful journey.

From The



of the 2016-17 Ohio District Bulletin Editor

Darrel Basford

THANK YOU!

