



Ohio District Bulletin March 2021 Edition



**Jennifer Kendo
2020-2021 Governor**

Message from our 2020-2021 Ohio District Governor Jennifer Kendo

Fellow Ohio District Optimists

Optimist International President Mark Weinssoff has declared the Optimist International theme for the second quarter to be **Happiness!** In addition, March is known across the globe as the month of Happiness. In the United States our forefathers included “the pursuit of happiness” in the Declaration of Independence. On July 12, 2012 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 20th the International Day of Happiness to recognize the importance of Happiness in the lives of people around the world.

The theme for this year's International Day of Happiness is 'Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind' and is, of course, in response to the COVID pandemic. As we face an ongoing global crisis together, this year's International Day of Happiness is a chance to find uplifting and positive ways to look after ourselves – and one another.

Keep calm. There are lots of things outside our control. Let's remember to breathe and focus on what really matters so we can respond constructively.

Stay wise. Making wise choices helps everyone. Let's choose positive actions that support our well-being and help others to do the same.

Be kind. We're all in this together, even when we're forced apart. Let's stay connected and reach out to help others who may be in need.

This theme, 'Keep Calm. Stay Wise. Be Kind', dovetails nicely with our Optimistic Philosophy. Optimist International President Mark Weinssoff is a big proponent of the International Day of Happiness. In fact, The Optimist International Board of Directors has officially voted to add March 20th International Day of Happiness to our Optimist Calendar. All clubs are encouraged to celebrate International Day of Happiness. Please join Optimist International President Mark Weinssoff on March 20th at 11:00 am to celebrate the International Day of Happiness with music! Optimist International will present musical happiness featuring performances, speakers, projects, and happy thoughts.

Encouraging all to Be the Change and Choose Optimism!

Governor Jennifer

The Great Ohio District Second Quarter Conference was held virtually on **February 27, 2021**. The conference action packed event filled with incredible speakers, great content, optimist sharing and resources to help our members & clubs.

As Governor of The Great Ohio District, I was very proud of the success of our first virtual District Conference and I am very thankful to all who participated. I especially want to thank the members of the Leadership Development Committee; Sue Armstrong – Chair, Myron Rheame, Greg Griffin, Larry Jarvis, Tom Kendo & me. The committee was assisted by Sharon O’Neil, Jim Elder and Doug Fritz in the preparation for the conference. An additional thanks to Doug Fritz, “the man behind the curtain”, who provide smooth technical assistance during the day of the event!

A big Ohio **THANK YOU** to our group of International speakers. The group included Optimist International President Mark Weinsoff, Optimist International Vice-President Tracy Huxley, Past Optimist International President Nick Prillaman, Optimist International Vice-President Bob McFadyen, Optimist International Membership Chair Russ Thomas, and Optimist International New Club Building Chair Tom Kendo. What an inspirational group of speakers!

In addition, many thanks to our Ohio District speakers! They provided helpful and informative topics for our members. Friday evening, we had a spectacular virtual hospitality room. Many thanks to Beth Duncan for hosting the games, fun & fellowship. A wonderful and optimistic time was had by all!

For those who could not attend or those who wish to re-watch any of the conference presentations we recorded the entire conference. Please find below a YouTube video link to view or access via the Ohio District website.

<https://youtu.be/nbsWvoEYCjs>



Congratulations!

Please join me in congratulating our Second Quarter District Conference gone VIRTUAL attendance Gift card **winners!**

First Time Attendees Winner: **Sharon Birkenhauer** - Paragon Optimist Club

Stay Until the End Winners:

Connie Krites – Wapakoneta Noon Optimist Club

Mike Cornelius – Bellbrook Optimist Club

Doug Fritz – Dorwood Optimist Club

Kevin Zehe – Mansfield Noon Optimist Club

All winners please watch your mail for your gift cards! Thank you to all who attended our Second Quarter District Conference gone VIRTUAL.

Governor Jennifer

Be The Change – CHOOSE OPTIMISM!

CLUB OFFICERS-ELECT REPORT (COER) OPEN ONLINE FOR 2021-2022 OFFICER INPUT

Optimist Clubs may now report their newly elected officers online

The Club Officer Elect Report (COER) is now live for those elected to serve in the 2021-2022 administrative year. Please complete and submit the COER online through Optimist Leaders. Current officers should log-in, click on "Reports" and scroll down to the box labeled "Club Officer Elect Report." Click on the button marked "Report" which will take you to another screen that has the Club Officers listed and will open up the Club roster so that you can choose the Member that will be serving as the officer. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Membership@optimist.org. All club officers should be reported by May 20 each year or as soon thereafter as possible.



Welcome Optimists Worldwide (W.O.W.)

W.O.W. is a fresh way to increase participation and membership in your Optimist Club. With a focus on the social side of membership, W.O.W. will help your Optimist Club turn every activity, virtual or live, into a recruiting opportunity and have fun doing it!

The keys to success are:

- Create opportunities for fun, social interaction.
- Create opportunities for all ages, all types of volunteers, existing members, and potential members.
- Invite your circle of friends and reach outside your circle to the larger community.
- Be welcoming at the event.
- Take five to ten minutes to talk about your Optimist Club projects.
- At the end, ask attendees to join, right here, right now.
- Follow up with those who need a little time to make the decision to join.

Important Upcoming Events and Dates

Oratorical Contests

Zone Contests must be completed by **March 24, 2021.**

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**WHY DO OPTIMISTS
LOVE BEING MEMBERS?**



"I feel like I am
making a difference."

www.Optimist.org

Membership is likened to an old leaky bucket

It needs to be fixed

2316 was our total membership as of October 1, 2020

55 New Members have been added since October 1, 2020



183 Members have been deleted as of February 28, 2021

Membership is the life line of our organization. Like the old leaky bucket, **if we don't add as many members as we lose, the bucket will one day be empty.**

How can we avoid this; by adding more members than we lose (JUST ASK) and/or repair the leakage by retaining our current members.

If we could add a new member for every member lost, this would help. **Remember;** the more members we have, the more youth we can serve and the work load of the club is spread out.

Types of Membership

Club Member

As Members of Optimist Clubs, individuals have the opportunity to **"Bring Out the Best in Kids"** along with other like-minded citizens. Through an Optimist Club, volunteers can answer the needs of local youth by organizing meaningful service projects

College Member

Any Optimist Member who is enrolled as a full-time college student (minimum of 12 credit hours) is eligible to have their annual dues reduced.

Friend of Optimists

Individuals can show their support of Optimist International by becoming Friends of Optimists. A Friend of Optimists may be someone who does not have an Optimist Club in their area, or they may not have time to dedicate to a local Optimist Club. Optimist Clubs can also bestow a Friend of Optimists membership on a community member who has shown great support for the Club.

The Great Ohio District is elated to help celebrate the following Club's anniversary date for the Month of March



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Club	City	Charter Date	Years	Club#	Zone
Tipp City Tipp Monroe	Tipp City	03/10/1984	37	24376	10
Delaware	Delaware	03/11/1976	45	24114	7
Akron	Akron	03/14/1923	98	24000	3
Centerville Noon	Centerville	03/19/1968	53	24403	14
Redhawk Miami Univ.	Oxford	03/20/2018	3	24525	15
Columbus-South	Columbus	03/27/1958	63	24360	7

As you can see, this is a total of 299 years of serving the young people of the Great Ohio District.

Please extend a Great Ohio District Optimist



to the following five new members, who have joined the Great Ohio District Optimist family in the month of February, 2021

New Member

Club

Sponsored by

Cj Steinke	Wapakoneta Breakfast	Donnie L Nichols
Carol A Parfenchuk	Centerville So Metro	Mona Romer
McKenzie Morin	UD Flyers	Kelly Stone
New Era Restaurant - FOO	Akron Breakfast	Amy Schwan
Julie Lambert	Delphos	Jason Schnipke

Membership – the backbone of our organization. We need to fill our clubs up with new blood, new ideas, new vigor. We need to grow to enable us to serve more youth.



From the deck of the Good Ship Darrel,

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