



Ohio District Bulletin May 2021 Edition



**Jennifer Kendo
2020-2021 Governor**

**Message from our 2020-2021 Ohio District Governor
Jennifer Kendo**

Fellow Ohio District Optimists

With 5 months left in the “Be the Change Choose Optimism” year, we need to focus on membership. Members are the lifeblood of our clubs. We need to take action to renew & revitalize our membership. Start the rally by re-energizing current members. Get back to meeting in person and serving the youth of our communities.

Continue the rally and ask people to become new members of your optimist club. There are many benefits to adding new members including serving more youth in your community, having more help for your projects & fundraisers, generating new ideas and making new friends. Do you struggle with asking & adding members to your club? Most clubs do struggle! At the 3rd Quarter District Conference on May 22nd, we will be focusing on membership. We will be conducting specific & interactive training on how to ask people to join an optimist club. Register now –

<https://ohiodistrictoptimist.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/THE-OFFICAL-CALL-Q3-2021-OHio-District-Conference.pdf>

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Embassy Suites in Dublin!

Every Optimist Club has the right to vote in the Optimist International President Elect, Vice President Elect and Board of Directors Elections. Make sure your Optimist Clubs voice is heard! Voting is now open and runs until May 29th at 5pm. Every club president should have received their clubs voting link via email. If you have questions or need help in voting reach out to me or your Lt. Governor.

Encouraging all to Be the Change and Choose Optimism!

Governor Jennifer

2021 International Officer and Board Director Election April 30 to May 29

Below are the **candidates** for the 2021-2022 International Officers and Board of Directors election:

2021-2022 President-Elect Candidates:

- [Melvin Bannister](#)
- [Sandra “Sandy” Larivee](#)
- [Robert “Bob” McFadyen](#)

2021-2022 Board Director at Large Candidates (2 to be elected):

- [Carol E. Jacobs Haynes](#)
- [Dwight Phillips](#)
- [Russell “Russ” Thomas](#)

2021-2022 Vice Presidents-Elect Candidates:

- Region 1 Northeast & Great Lakes – [Marlene Phillips](#), & [Thomas Kendo](#)
- Region 2 Southeast – [Gwen L. Gable](#)
- Region 3 Mid-Atlantic – [Donna M. Aker](#)
- Region 4 Middle America – [Julie Robison](#)
- Region 5 Great Plains – [Rod McKendrick](#)
- Region 6 Southwest – [Linda McDonald](#)
- Region 7 West Coast – [Lynn Reiter-Woodhead](#)

Please Vote for our own

Tom Kendo for Vice President Elect!

Every **VE**TE **COUNTS!**

If you experience trouble in receiving your link:

1. Check your spam folder for an email from direct vote.net
2. Use the following link: <https://www.directvote.net/OI/sendID.aspx> and enter the club president's login information as it is on the Optimist International club roster and their login information will be emailed
3. The election login information email is automatically re-sent every Wednesday in May beginning May 5.
4. Contact your Lt. Governor or Governor Jennifer for assistance.
5. Last resort contact tom.carver@optimist.org

The Election of Club officer(s) should have been (hopefully) completed by April 30.

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. or Darrel Basford at (513) 600-3528 aviatord2012@yahoo.com. **All club officers should be reported by May 20 each year or as soon thereafter as possible. If your club officers remain the same, THEY SHOULD STILL BE REPORTED TO OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL for the 2021-2022 year.**

Important Upcoming Events and Dates

Our 3rd Quarter District Conference is May 21-22 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin. Please plan to attend. We will be celebrating Governor Myron's 2019-2020 awards & accomplishments at lunch on Saturday.



103rd Optimist International 2021 Convention

Hyatt Regency Atlanta 265 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303 Phone (404) 577-1234
Jun 30 - Jul 3, 2021



73rd Ohio District Convention

Embassy Suites Columbus-Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, Ohio 43017
Phone: (614) 790-9000
August 19 - August 22, 2021



Great Ohio District Holds Oratorical Contest

The speakers had checked in early, changed their screen names to letters, drew randomly, and were practiced and polished on Saturday, May 1. For the second year in a row, six students representing the three Regions of the Great Ohio District squared off in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest.

The **First Place** winner's path was unconventional. Lauren Meinke of Versailles contacted the District website looking for a club to sponsor her, but her nearest club did not hold an oratorical contest and since the rules require at least three competitors, she had to look elsewhere. With the guidance of Governor Jennifer Kendo and District Contest Chair Debe Dockins, Lauren was referred to Kettering Noon and Sue Armstrong. Lauren competed and won, went to Zone 13's competition and won.

Together with the District's 2nd Place winner Diya Percy from the South Metro Club, Lauren advanced through Region 3 with Jerry Stahley coordinating in what he reports will be his final competition.

At the District competition, Lauren Meinke, a senior at Versailles High School, Diya Percy, a sophomore from Alter High School in Kettering, and Faith Lee, a junior from Strongsville High School rose to the top to claim \$2,500 (plus \$1,000 from the Bill O'Neil Memorial Scholarship Fund), \$1,500 (plus \$1,000) and \$1,000 (plus \$500) in scholarship money from Optimist International.

Three other speakers, Parker Badat of the Upper Arlington Club; Aya Eissa of the Shawnee Optimist Club in Lima; and, Austin Zinger of the Van Wert Club also spoke enthusiastically on the topic "**Healing the World with Optimism.**" Thanks also goes to all who coordinated the Club, Zone and Region contests!

Lauren Meinke, who plans to attend Case Western the fall, has goals of becoming a cardiologist. For now, however, she'll have to contend with the Northeast & Great Lakes Region virtual competition slated for July 22. **Best of luck, Lauren!**

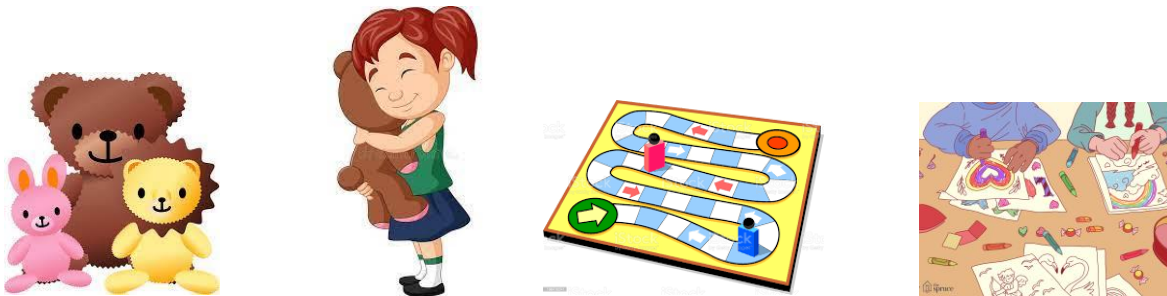
THE GREAT OHIO OPTIMIST DISTRICT

SERVICE PROJECT FOR 3RD QUARTER CONFERENCE

Attention Optimists:

Please let all your club members know we need donations for our district Optimist service project this quarter, which is to help Care House. They need lots of **individually wrapped snacks** for children: **cheese crackers**, **peanut butter crackers**, cookies, **granola bars**, **fruit snacks**, **juice boxes**, **small bottles of water** and more. They also can use some **stuffed animals** for the children to hug, **coloring books or sketch pads**, **crayons & markers**, and **children's games and puzzles** to provide some comfort for the abused children for whom they provide services. Please help by bringing or sending these items to the Ohio District Conference on Saturday, May 22, at Embassy Suites, in Dublin, OH. Please send the donated items with your club representatives or get them to another Optimist member who is attending. You can also contact Sue Armstrong at sarmstrong2361@gmail.com or call her at (937) 344-0488. We will work together to sort and box these items and Sue Armstrong will deliver them to Care House, on behalf of all the Ohio District Optimists. **Thank you for caring and sharing to help others!**

All members attending the meeting will be asked to make encouragement cards for us to include with our donated items. Cards and markers/pens will be provided for attendees to use.



Snacks



Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence

In July 1965, a discussion between Past International President Carl Bowen and former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover resulted in the **birth** of the **“Respect for Law” community activity**. This is the **fourth most popular Optimist activity** with more than 1,500 clubs participating each year (normally during the month of May). I would like to share this article.

“A Cop On The Take”

First he takes...the oath. Now look at what else he takes:
He takes...it in stride when people call him pig.
He takes...his lousy pay check realizing he'll never be rich.
He takes...a second job sometimes to make ends meet and support his family.
He takes...time to stop and talk to children.
He takes...your verbal abuse while giving you a ticket you really deserved.
He takes...on creeps you would be afraid to even look at.
He takes...time away from his family to keep you safe.
He takes...your injured child to the hospital.
He takes...the graveyard shift without complaint because it's his turn.
He takes...his life into his hands daily.
He takes...you home when your car breaks down.
He takes...time to explain why both your headlights have to work.
He takes...the job no one else wants – telling you a loved one has died.
He takes...criminals to jail.
He takes...in sights that would make you cry. Sometimes he cries too, but he takes it anyway because someone has to.
He takes...memories to bed each night that you couldn't bear for even one day.
He takes...time to explain to his family why he can't make the ball game his child is in and why he has to work on the holiday when other parents are off.
Sometimes...he takes a bullet.
And yes, occasionally he may take a free cup of coffee.
He takes retirement...if he is lucky.
Then one day he pays for all he has taken...and hopefully...God takes him.

Written by Texas Police Officer Kendricks as a tribute to his late brother, Police Officer Rodney Kendricks who died from injuries suffered in an on-duty auto accident in Lubbock, Texas, July 2001.

P.S. Please take the time to thank our police officers and their families.

The Great Ohio District is elated to help celebrate the following Club's Anniversary Date for the Month of April



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

Club	City	Charter Date	Years	Club#	Zone
East Dayton	Dayton	05/06/1953	68	24125	13
Unoh-Lima	Lima	05/12/2009	12	24001	8
Kettering Dor-Wood	Kettering	05/13/1965	56	24115	13
Lima Shawnee	Lima	05/17/1978	43	24351	8
Kettering Noon	Kettering	05/23/1989	32	24224	13
Eaton	Eaton	05/25/1968	53	24142	15
Bazetta Cortland	Cortland	05/31/1967	54	24007	4

*As you can see, this is a total of **318** years of serving the young people of the Great Ohio District.*

Please extend a Great Ohio District Optimist



to the following eight members, who have joined the Great Ohio District Optimist family in the month of April, 2021

New Member

Club

Sponsored by

Nick Earl	Wapakoneta-Breakfast	Donnie L Nichols
Julie Lee	Wapakoneta Noon	Angela Sparks
Scott Rheume	Centerville Noon	Myron Rheume
Carla Rheume	Centerville Noon	Myron Rheume
Gail Tanner	Hilliard	Charles W Davis Jr
Richard Hauser	Kettering Dor-Wood	Jack E Steel
Sam Francis	Kettering Dor-Wood	Jack L Akerman
Casey Walters	Monroe-Area	Rhenda Buckner

Membership – the backbone of our organization. The need for new members has never been greater. The need for new ideas, new vigor and new strength for the continuation in our club's service “To Bringing out the Best in Kids” is needed NOW. Just Ask



From the deck of the Good Ship Darrel,

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