

The Sunny Side



Volume One: Issue Eight

THROWING SPAGHETTI

Hey Optimists! Can you believe we are at the end of the Optimist year? And what a year it's been! If you attended the Optimist International Convention (either virtually or in-person) you may have heard the panel discussion where Optimists discussed their new, virtual events. The common thread between the panelists' stories was: *I had an idea and decided to go for it.* Failure was a possibility. And sometimes "failure" was the outcome. But they learned from those "failures," made adjustments, and tried again. What could be more optimistic than that?

For anyone in a club or district leadership position, we understand the health of our clubs. We know where the ball falls on the engagement meter, and we feel the weight of responsibility. But as Optimists, instead of feeling crushed and defeated by that weight, we have ideas and decide to go for them. Some may say we throw spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks. Each of our members has different passions, activities, and hobbies. You never know what might peak their interest if you don't try. Optimist International has written a few new recipes this year that your clubs can throw at the wall and see what sticks. Who knows. These recipes might be just what your current or potential new members have been craving.

SAVE THE DATE

FRESH RECIPES

1st Quarter Conference

Date: Nov 5th-6th
Location: DeForest
[Conferences](#)

2nd Quarter Conference

Date: Feb 18th-19th
Location: TBD
[Conferences](#)

3rd Quarter Conference

Date: May 13th-14th
Location: TBD
[Conferences](#)

4th Quarter Conference

Date: Aug 12th-13th
Location: TBD
[Conferences](#)

W.O.W

Most of you have heard of N.O.W (New Optimists Welcome). **W.O.W.** (Welcome Optimist Worldwide) is an Optimist International initiative that not only encourages recruitment and growth, but also encourages engagement of current members. W.O.W events can be held in-person or virtually. They can be strictly social or they can incorporate community service. In order to host a W.O.W event, your club members should lead with fun. Invite your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Be sure to have membership flyers and applications. Talk about why you became an Optimist and your favorite Optimist projects. Paint the picture of who your club is and the community that potential new members could be a part of. Here are some examples:

- **Interactive Games:** Bingo, Board Game Night, Trivia, Name that Tune, Scavenger Hunt, Bowling, Laser Tag
- **Creative Activities:** Paint Night, Baking or Cooking, Card Making
- **Community Service:** School Supply, Toiletry, and/or Food Drives, Park Clean Up
- **Leisure Activities:** Ice Skating, Beer Gardens, Car Shows, Baseball, Golf, Coffee

Celebrate Community

Do you have people in your life that are members of Kiwanis, Rotary or Lyons? Instead of competing with them for members, Optimist International is encouraging us to join forces. **Celebrate Community** is a week-long initiative for Optimists to come together with other service organizations and serve our community together. And if your club does not have personal connections with the other service organizations, visit the "Club Locator" section to find a club near you. October 10th-16th, clubs can support their communities through three ways:

- **Environmental:** Community Clean-up (parks, trails, schools), Tree Planting
- **Food Insecurity:** Collect food for local pantries, Package meals for donation, Community garden
- **Health & Wellness:** Support local hospitals or Ronald McDonald House; Organize or participate in walks or runs for health causes (cancer, JDRF, autism, etc.)

So as the Optimist year comes to a close, I'd like to encourage each of you: *Dare to try.* When you feel disconnected. When you feel stuck. When you feel like your Optimism tank is running on empty. *Dare to try.* Cook a big pot of spaghetti and throw it at the wall. Because if you aim for the moon, you'll at least land in a sea of Optimists ready to try and try again.

To submit a question for the SWIS District Leadership team or to request an article topic for *The Sunny Side*, please contact Amanda.szymkowski@gmail.com