



The Sunny Side



YOU'RE INVITED

CLUB EVENTS

Invite Optimist members to your youth programs, community events, and social gatherings here!

FUNDRAISERS

Invite Optimist members to donate to your collections, buy raffle tickets, or attend our fundraising events here!

DISTRICT CONFERENCES:

1st Quarter Conference

Date: Sat, November 7th
Location: Virtual Only
Registration: Now-11/1

2nd Quarter Conference

Date: Sat February 13th
Location: Fitchburg
Registration: 1/8-2/9

3rd Quarter Conference

Date: Sat, May 15
Location: Whitewater
Registration: 4/9-5/11

4th Quarter Conference

Date: Sat, August 14th
Location: Fort Atkinson
Registration: 7/2-8/10

For more information:

[Conferences](#)

Volume One: Issue One

RE-CONNECT. RE-ENGAGE . RE-IGNITE.

Happy Optimist New Year! Now is the perfect time to think about the goals that we had a year ago and forgive ourselves if we could not achieve them. A global pandemic forced a lot of us to retreat into our homes, cancel fundraisers and youth events, and disconnect from social activities. Some of us were able to pivot with ease by maintaining connected through web conferencing and social media, and some of us were a little more reluctant. It doesn't matter which category you fell into. Today is a new day. This is a new Optimist Year.

I recently logged into the Optimist International virtual convention platform to check out any trainings and workshops that I missed when it first went live back in June. I watched an interesting presentation called *Better Selecting and Onboarding*. The following steps should be followed when onboarding new members; but it may also be a good idea for clubs who need to reconnect.

Step One: Make a plan. Do your homework. Find out who they are and why they signed up. Find out what their volunteer and work experience is. Identify key people who they should meet

Step Two: Provide a list of resources. Overview of club, committee and organizational structure. Schedule of club programs, projects and fundraisers. Contact information. Club brochure, website, and social media information.

Step Three: Make them feel welcome. Let them make suggestions. Let them select their roles. Do not give them the unwanted jobs that current members passed on. Involve them in planning discussions. Give them committee and event information so they can volunteer for what works best for them. Find out how they want to be communicated with (calls, text, email, etc).

Step Four: Go Beyond Onboarding. Prepare them for their selected roles. Train them, give them resources, and trust them to lead. Make yourself or other key members available for questions along the way. Support their decisions and help them succeed. Continue guidance and mentorship. Communicate often.

Step Five: Say Thank you. Recognize. Appreciate. Celebrate.

Last year, we Re-iMaged. This year: Let's Re-Connect, Re-Engage, and Re-Ignite our passions for bringing out the best in youth.

Dear Sunny

Do you have a question for the SWIS District leadership team? Are you looking for advice on Optimist programming? Write to us and your question will be answered in a bonus "Dear Sunny" issue.

Contribute to *The Sunny Side*: Amanda.szymkowski@gmail.com