



# SWIS 2014-2015 NEWSLETTER



SWIS District

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## Message from Governor Jeff



Jeff Kuchenbecker

### Where's the Optimism?

That was the question posed by the guest speaker when asked if she would like to join a club in Santa Barbera CA. She liked the mission of the organization, but her impression was the group seemed very much like all the other civic groups she had visited. So she felt compelled to ask "Where's the Optimism?" "After all, you are an Optimist club."

This little story reminds me of the very popular 1984 ad campaign for Wendy's chain of fast food restaurants. In it an elderly customer was miffed by the tiny (almost negligible) portion of meat on her hamburger bun, so she asked the in-your-face question "Where's the Beef?"

Is our optimism AWOL? Are we missing a golden opportunity to have a lasting effect on someone's life? Are we making sure that there is a goodly amount of optimism at our meetings? It seems to me that the greatest benefit of being a member of an Optimist Club should be that we truly are optimistic.

I know that many clubs "walk the talk". And this will often result in more people wanting to become members. You should be able to make a promise to prospective members, just as you Promise Yourself in reciting the Optimist Creed at each meeting, that their participation in your club WILL result in an increased attitude of optimism.

In the spirit of true optimism, make it so.

Jeff Kuchenbecker

Governor

## The "One Dollar will get you Ten" Membership Challenge!!

Huh?? How does that work?

1. Make a written pledge to recruit one or more new adult members (including Friend of Optimists) by September 30.
2. Include \$1 for every new member pledged.
3. You will receive \$10 for each new member you sponsor by September 30, 2015.

Let's have some fun.

Governor Jeff



## Foundation News

I recently attended the Optimist International Foundation training with our 2015-2016 Governor elect Howard Crofoot at the International convention in New Orleans on July 8, 2015. The 97<sup>th</sup> annual convention was held July 09-11, 2015. My club, the Sun Prairie Optimist club was awarded a \$500.00 matching grant by the foundation at the International convention. It was an honor to accept the award at the convention. There were 20 grants awarded at the Optimist International Convention for new charitable projects. Sun Prairie's grant was written for a new project for their Buena Vista community school. This community school will be starting an International Club in the Fall. We will not only be presenting them with a check for \$1000.00. We will also be involved hands on in their project. This is one of the requirements of the Optimist International Club Grant Program. How do we compare to other districts when it comes to charitable giving? As of May 31, 2015, we are in 15<sup>th</sup> place with a total of \$9548.65 of unrestricted donations and 20<sup>th</sup> place for average that a member gives. We have a current total of 1764 members with an average of \$5.41 a person. We are ranked number 9 in Childhood Cancer donations of \$2859.00 and number 9 in our dime a day members. We currently have a total of 102 dime a day members. The foundation envisions a Foundation that can provide significant funding for Optimist International's youth and service programs and is proudly supported by individual Optimists, their clubs and the community at large. We still have until the end of September to consider giving to the Foundation for the 2014-2015 year. Our last SWIS conference is August 15, 2015. We will have a raffle for the Foundation. If you have items you would like to donate for our raffle please contact me at [mo-sey30@yahoo.com](mailto:mo-sey30@yahoo.com). I am always looking for raffle items. Please go back to your clubs and consider giving through programs such as Dime a Day, Presidents Club or your club can donate \$365.00 unrestricted, or a \$1.00 a day and your club will earn a banner patch. By donating today, your club can join others in the mission to "Help Optimists Help Kids".

Optimistically Yours,

Maureen Crombie

District Foundation Representative

## Essay contest wrap-up

We had 20 essays submitted this year, which is right about where we've been for the past few years. And this year, Ritika Punathil (via the Menomonee Falls Club) was the winner. She is a senior, and she will be receiving the \$2,500 scholarship.

I look forward to next year's contest. The topic will be "Lead by Example: reality or fiction". And there's a new age requirement: Youth under the age of 18 as of **September 30** of the contest school year. Since the contest school year is 2015-2016, I think it means September of 2016. I will be asking for some clarification from OI.



## 2015 Football Crazr Sweepstakes

The 2015 NFL Football season will be getting underway in less than two months. The excitement in getting your clubs ticket allotment into the hands of your ticket buyers should be at the top of your list at this time. To date, a new record of tickets in SWIS District clubs possession is the highest in the history of the sweepstakes. If all of the tickets are sold that are out there, we will be able to do a tremendous job in bringing out the best in kids! This year we lost a couple of clubs that have sold tickets in the past due to a declining amount of members in the club. At the same time, we picked up a couple clubs that have not sold tickets in the past, but have committed to selling tickets this year.

At this time, the first phase of the selling season should have yielded a large sum of sold tickets. It is requested that those sold stubs and money be mailed as soon as possible to my address as shown below. In the coming weeks, please send all sold stubs and money to me on a weekly basis so I can get the computer processing done on those tickets at this time. Please do not wait until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August to forward your sold packets to me.

Several clubs have already sent packets of stubs and money to me, but there have been mistakes in the naming of the checks that have been sent. Please make the checks payable to FUND CRAZR. This should be the only name on the pay to line. Checks have come in with Optimists of Southern Wisconsin, SWIS District, Fund Crazer etc... Please only pay to FUND CRAZR.

If your club feels that you will need more tickets to sell, please let me know that quickly, so I can get the packet to you. I have a short supply of unsold tickets in my supply here, so if you need more tickets, that can be accomplished.

One more thing, I noticed that most tickets are coming in without an e-mail address included on the stub. On the stub, there is a blank line where the e-mail address can be inserted. Please use that area to show the buyer's e-mail address. This will help your club in sales next year if you record the e-mail address of all of your buyers. Social media is the way to contact folks now. Also, if there is a stub that I cannot read because of poor penmanship, I can e-mail the person to get the correct information. Please continue to push your sales efforts during the upcoming weeks and let's make this year a super record year.

Fred Dorn, 501 N. Madison Street, Waunakee, WI 53597 [fdorn@chorus.net](mailto:fdorn@chorus.net) 608-849-5290 608-220-1531

## Tri-Star Basketball Contest

We have another successful event in the books for 2015, with just over 200 kids in attendance this past April. Thank you to all the clubs and club chairs that facilitate this program in the local clubs. The winners of the program this year and their sponsoring club is denoted on the next page.

Looking forward, we are holding April 16, 2016 for the annual Tri-Star Basketball and planning is already underway. As always, we encourage you do continue/try this project in your local club. As you look at budgets and calendars for 2016, please consider running the program. We are happy to help you out or address any questions, just ask!

Warm Regards,  
Joe Mundwiler & Amy Soleimani-Mafi  
Co-Chairs



## 2015 SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball Winners



### 2015 SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball Winners

**Boys**

**6-year olds**

- 1. Eric Smith, Jr.
- 2. Jackson Albee
- 3. Naron Hamp

**Club**

- Waukesha
- Mukwonago
- Kenosha

**Girls**

- Landrie Spidahl
- Morgan McKay
- Arianna Hartman

**Club**

- Monroe
- Waukesha
- Portage

## 2015 SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball Winners Cont.

### 7-year olds

1. Kevin Lewis	Waukesha	Sophie Conway	Monroe
2. Luke Bleimehl	Menomonee Falls	Teligha Brown	Kenosha
3. Connor Harvie	Mukwonago	Kate Janssen	Menomonee Falls

### 8-year olds

1. Davyn Edge	Platteville	Skye Meler	Waukesha
2. Anton Seymour	Menomonee Falls	Alana Durtschi	Monroe
3. Lance Thomas	Jefferson	Haydean Sellnow	Lake Mills

### 9-year olds

1. Ryan Reichhoff	Portage	Alexis Kammerer	Brodhead
2. Cooper Murphy	Lake Mills	Taylor Wollin	Lake Mills
3. Luke Krajcik	Waukesha	Payton Schmidt	Jefferson

### 10-year olds

1. Aaron Still	Waukesha	Kiarra Moe	Brodhead
2. Wyatt Heer	Platteville	Breanna Glasson	Monroe
3. Aaron Roidt	Monroe	Emma Riedl	Jefferson

### 11-year olds

1. Brendyn Edge	Platteville	Payton Johnson	Monroe
2. Heath Haschitt	Monroe	Maggie Mueller	Waukesha
3. Oscar Brown	Kenosha	Alivia Dearborn	Jefferson

### 12-year olds

1. Connor Selbach	Menomonee Falls	Sadie Conway	Monroe
2. Adam Johnson	Mukwonago	Vivian Guerrero	Lake Mills
3. Wyatt Wanezek	Platteville	Lindsey Krause	Jefferson

### 13-year olds

1.		Grace Mathiason	Monroe
2.		Hailee Sunquist	Jefferson
3.		Nakia Hughes	Kenosha

## Charles “Chuck” Presser Obituary



Charles “Chuck” Presser

### Obituary

RACINE - Charles “Chuck” Presser, 88, passed away at his residence on Sunday, June 14, 2015, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Union, KY, on May 27, 1927, the son of the late Riley and Edith (nee: Baumgartner) Presser. Chuck served his country with the [United States Air Force](#) for over 20 years. On July 2, 1955, in St. Patrick Catholic Church, he was united in marriage to the former Barbara Emerson. Chuck had been employed by S.C. Johnson and Son for over 18 years, until he retired. During his lifetime he was a very accomplished salesman, selling everything from World Book Encyclopedias to spices and cleaning supplies. It was said he could sell ice to Eskimos or water to fish. Chuck was a member of St. Richard Parish, the Racine Lions Club, the Racine Optimist Club, T.O.P.S., and The Sons of Norway. He was involved in Boy Scouts of America for over 10 years, and a 24 Year Member of A.A., where he sponsored many people seeking help. After Barb, the second love of Chuck’s life was playing a round of golf. Surviving are his wife, of nearly 60 years, Barb Presser; their children, Kevin (Sherry) Presser, of Mt. Pleasant, Sheila (Robert) Anderson, of Austin, TX, Shaun (Darla) Presser, of Kissimmee, FL, Terrance Presser, of Racine, Kerri (Jim) Stephenson, of Austin, TX, Michaela Decker, of Racine, Eileen McLaughlin, of Centreville, VA, and Patrick Presser, of Oroville, CA; twenty-one grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, with two more arriving shortly; brother, Riley “Sonny” Presser, of San Diego, CA; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He is also survived by three loyal and dear friends, Mike Lewis, Jan DeLuca, and Dave Albertini, as well as numerous friends on the golf course. In addition to his parents, Chuck was preceded in death by his brother, Kenneth Presser, and three sisters, Virginia Knippenberg, Lorraine Mathis, and Mary Lou Presser. The family would like to publicly thank Geniva Hospice of West Allis and all the staff of the Aurora Medical Center. His Memorial Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Richard of Chichester Catholic Church, 1509 Grand Ave., on Thursday, June 18th, at 6:30 p.m. with Rev. Ronald Gramza officiating.

Visitation will be in the church on Thursday, from 4:30 p.m. until the time of the Mass. Inurnment will be in the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Union Grove, on Friday, June 19th, at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to the Racine Lions Club, the Racine Optimist Club, or to the [charity of your choice](#) .

DRAEGER-LANGENDORF FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY 4600 County Line Rd. 552-9000 [www.draeger-langendorf.com](http://www.draeger-langendorf.com)

## Ol Junior Golf Qualifier

The SWIS District Ol Junior Golf qualifier was held on June 22, 2015 at Brown Deer Golf Course in Milwaukee. This was a different venue this year in hopes we would attract more golfers, as the following 2 days, a big Junior tournament was held in Milwaukee, and Brown Deer Golf Course was one of the two courses they played. Unfortunately, the number of golfers were a bit disappointing at 34 but those that showed up had fun and played well. The scores ranged from a low of 73 to a high of 115. Remember, this is the course that used to host the GMO and US Bank Open for PGA players. The weather also offered a challenge, as halfway through their round, play was suspended for 2 hours due to a storm moving through the area. After waiting out the delay, golfers resumed their play in beautiful sunny weather. Of 13 potential tournament spots, we were able to qualify 8 golfers to advance to the International tournament in late July. As of today, the tournament is still in process so no information in regards to results is available on those that attended the event in Florida. We appreciate any support the clubs gave us in running this tournament. We are reviewing the results and determining what, if any, changes we want to make to next years event.



Todd Paulus – Co-Chair

Tom Carls – Co-Chair

## CLUB PROFILES 'SHARE' with OTHER SWIS CLUB OPTIMISTS

Thanks to the SWIS Club Leaders who have logged on to the Leaderboard area to update their club profile and share some events and accomplishments with other SWIS Clubs.

The goal is to have ALL the clubs update their Club Profile and continue sharing upcoming events and accomplishments with other clubs throughout the year. Chosen Clubs will be 'Featured' on the SWIS Website on a regular basis. General Training and Features of the Website will be shared at future SWIS Conferences.

All 14-15 Club Officers have had passwords 'internally' set-up that can be acquired in the Leaderboard logon of the website.

Following are steps for updating your club profile:

- 1) [WWW.SWISDISTRICT.ORG](http://WWW.SWISDISTRICT.ORG)
- 2) Leaderboard Tools > Leaderboard.
- 3) Club Leaders E-mail Address > click on obtaining password.
- 4) Obtain your 'personal' password in your e-mail input box.
- 5) Go back to the SWIS Website, put in your password, Security Code and login.
- 6) In Leaderboard area you can update your Club Profile with:
  - a. General information including Meeting Location/Time.
  - b. Short Description of Your Club. (250 characters).
  - c. Longer General Description of Annual Club Activities/Events/etc.
- 7) Upcoming Events to share dates/information with other clubs.
- 8) Past Accomplishments, with pictures to share with other clubs.
- 9) If you have a Club Website and/or Facebook, link to it.
- 10) Photo Gallery of any pictures you would like to share with other clubs.

Check out the other support documents for your club in the Leaderboard area.

Let me know if you have any questions or have problems with logging into your club leaderboard?

Optimistically, [Bonnie Spindler](mailto:blspindler@charter.net), SWIS Webmaster  
[blspindler@charter.net](mailto:blspindler@charter.net) 608-833-7244 (H) 608-338-7244 (cell)