



# SWIS 2011 - 2012 Newsletter



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## Dear SWIS Optimists: "Welcome to the 'Moving FORWARD With Kids' 2011-2012 Year"

You and your club have had many successful achievements in the past years. I wish to inspire you to set your goals high for even greater service to youth, your community, your club, and the Optimist organization. By your attitude, example, and actions we can "Move Forward" as individuals for the next generation. Our legacy will be the guidance, leadership, advice, love, empowerment, and patience that we show for those we serve.

We have a GREAT SWIS Team of Optimists. I've met a lot of you while traveling around visiting clubs and really appreciate all the support you've given me. We are all in this together for the future of the 'Kids' in the next generation. The International President Elect, Jack Creswell continues with the same logo "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" and added "100% and then some". The Milwaukee International Convention, which will be held in July 2012, has a logo of "Meet Milwaukee". The SWIS 11-12 logo "Moving Forward With Kids" can inspire us even further.

The SWIS Mission is to "Achieve the vision of the District through a dedicated network of members committed to service of its members, youth, and communities". We can achieve the SWIS 11-12 vision by "Moving Forward" together as a SWIS Team through: 1) Personal Growth/Training; 2) Communication; 3) Involvement through planned programs; and 4) Growth in membership. Following are some planning and dates for the 11-12 year.

Oct. 15' 2011: **Final Skateboarding Competition:**  
4 Seasons, Milwaukee: Co-chairs: Kevin & Joleen Austin, kevjoaustin@yahoo.com .

October 21-22, 2011: **SWIS 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Conference** in Baraboo: Guest Speaker: VP-Great Plains Region – Judy Boyd. Installation SWIS Board of Club President's; OI Foundation Awards; Scholarship Program updates (Oratorical, Essay, CCDHH), Internet Safety, Childhood Cancer, Personal Growth programs, Internet Training, Round-tables JOOI Skits & presentations; UW Students Service Trip, and others.

**Fall Membership Drive:** Acquire information on scheduling your Club event before Thanksgiving from Membership Chair, Josh Zaidel, joshzaidel@me.com. Post cards/Introductory letters, a "to do" list and support will be provided for your clubs successful event.

February 10-11, 2012: **SWIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Conference** in Middleton: Certified Trainer, Program updates, Recognitions 10-11, Incentives Recognitions 11-12, personal growth training, Pre-planning for 12-13, etc.

February 28, 2012: **Essay** information to Don Kresch, Essay Chair 11-12, (see article).

April 14, 2012: District **Tri-Star Basketball** Competition, Co-Chairs Amy Soleimani & Joe Mundwiler. (see article).

March/April 2012: **Oratorical Zone** Competition, Clubs.

May 11-12, 2012, **SWIS 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Conference** at Wilderness in Dells including **Oratorical, Essay, Communication Deaf & Hard of Hearing-CCDHH** competition, presentations special OI guest, Personal Development, other programs. (see articles)

July 12 – 14, 2012: **Milwaukee International Convention**, more details coming. Joanne Ganske, SWIS co-chair. (see article).

August 24-25, **SWIS 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2012, District Convention** in Madison: Incentives recognized, training provided, special speakers, personal growth programs, preparation for Larry Barbera's year as Governor 12-13.

I will be updating these events on a continued basis through out the year. The communication of those updates will be through your Lt. Governor, who will add Zone activities / events, and e-mail/US mail to Club Officers for member distribution. This SWIS Quarterly Newsletter contains input from many optimists for all of us to learn and share.

As part of 'Moving Forward', the OI International Recognition Program has been set for 5 years starting Oct. 1st, 2011. In SWIS the following has been implemented to improve communication and cross-training: Co-Chairs for cross-training in most all positions; Co-Chair mentors of past-governors for experience; Re-Zoning to 8 Club Zones; Lt. Gov., President, Sec/Treasurer training documentation; and Appointment of SWIS Lt. Governor Zone 9, JOOI Clubs for communication.

Accept the challenge for this next year by reaching out, asking questions, participating, growing as individuals, and touching the life of another human being along the way. We are all in this together, so let's make 11-12 a great year for ourselves, the kids we serve, and the SWIS Optimist organization. Please contact me with any questions.

Optimistically, **Bonnie Spindler, SWIS Governor 2011-2012**

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## My fellow Optimist,

This is the year “it” is finally going to happen! So what is “it,” you are asking?

My reply is quite simple. GROWTH! That is what we are and must be all about for the foreseeable future. For far too long now, we have suffered under the burden of negative growth. Shrinking numbers mean financial problems, fewer projects and, finally, less service for our young people. Not a pretty picture. These are certainly not any of the reasons you or I joined this great organization!

The groups of leaders and Members who have come together this year have rededicated themselves to making us grow! No longer will you hear, “We can’t,” but rather, “What can I do to make ‘it’ happen?” Now that you know and understand just what your job is (growth), we need to tell you where your resources and support are going to be coming from. Our staff in St. Louis and Montreal stands ready to guide and direct you. Our website is just filled with information for your use. Also, never forget to call upon the current or, for that matter, the past leaders of our organization. All stand ready to serve.

Our theme this year, “100% and then some,” really says it quite nicely. It is, after all, that little bit of extra effort that will make all the difference. “And then some” will make this the year others will talk about for years to come. I ask of you most sincerely, step forward today so that tomorrow there will be an Optimist to hear a child’s call for help. 100% and then some ...

### Jack Creswell

2011-2012

Optimist International President



**Joan Kenney**, Editor  
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## Greetings Optimists of the SWIS District and the GREAT Plains Region!

Let me begin by asking you – **why are you a member of an Optimist club?** What brought you to the place where you are in your Optimist life today? Was it the kids? The fellowship? The fun? The service to your community? **What keeps you doing what you are doing?** Is it still the fellowship or the service? Or is it because of the personal growth that you have attained because of certain tenets of our Optimist Creed?

**What if no one had ever asked you to join an Optimist Club?** What if you’d never had the opportunity to see the grin on a small child’s face when you handed him that bicycle helmet? What if you’d never had the opportunity to see the grateful tears of a single mom when you and a couple club members walked up to her door with a Thanksgiving meal for her and her children? What if...?

Please join with me to **Bring Out the Best in Kids 100% and then some...** . When we concentrate on who we are, our **ATTITUDE** gives us possibilities, our **PRIORITIES** give us focus, our **HEALTH** gives us strength, our **FAMILY** gives us stability, our **THINKING** gives us an advantage, our **COMMITMENT** gives us tenacity, our **FINANCES** give us options, our **FAITH** gives us peace, our **RELATIONSHIPS** give us fulfillment, our **GENEROSITY** gives us significance, our **VALUES** give us directions, and our **GROWTH** gives us potential.

What is your potential as an Optimist? Will you grow and believe in yourself? The kids that we serve need us. It’s a challenge for each of us, but I **BELIEVE** that we will **Bring Out the Best in Kids 100% and then some...?**

Yours in Optimism,

### Judy Boyd

2011 – 2012,

Great Plains Vice President



## SWIS 2011-2012 EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Bonnie Spindler,**  
**SWIS Governor 11-12**  
[bspindler@charter.net](mailto:bspindler@charter.net)

I've been a 13-year member and past president of the Sauk Trails Optimist Club of Madison. I was a Lt. Governor for two years, SWIS Sec/Treasurer, SWIS Newsletter Editor for many years, and in various chair positions in my club. It has been great to meet so many optimists in the Southern Wisconsin – SWIS District over the years and putting faces behind e-mail addresses.

My background is in the computer area as a programmer, analyst, project leader and trainer. I worked for many years for a Utility company and then as a consultant. My husband Gene and I have lived in Verona, WI for many years. We have 3 grown sons, Sean, Ryan, and Tyler, two daughter-in-laws and 3 grandchildren. We enjoy being up north at our cottage in Minocqua, traveling as much as possible, and being with the many friends that we've met over the years.

I appreciate the great TEAM of Optimist Support as we "Move Forward With Kids" in 11-12. I'm really excited and honored to be the SWIS Governor in this year.



**Larry Barbera**  
**SWIS Gov. Elect 11-12**  
[lbarbera@wi.rr.com](mailto:lbarbera@wi.rr.com)

I'm a proud member and Past President of the Menomonee Falls Club. I've been with the Club since early 2000 when my daily schedule became more flexible. Two sons, both married, with three kids between them, and a daughter who's in her final year at Winona State. My wife Jan, originally from Kenosha, graduated from Oshkosh with a teaching degree and I came out of the Business School at Eau Claire. I had the chance to spend 22 years with Wisconsin National Guard and the Army Reserve and retired with the rank of Major. I'm still involved with a couple of businesses and Jan and I have been franchise owners with Market America going on thirteen years.

This past year I enjoyed being LT. Governor for the newly created Zone 6 featuring most of the larger Clubs in the SWIS District. The year before, I served as Lt. Governor for Zone 1, getting to know some really fine Optimists throughout southeastern Wisconsin. You have to admit, there's just nothing else to even compare to Optimism and what we do. Keep up the good work, have a terrific year, spread the word and expand the team.



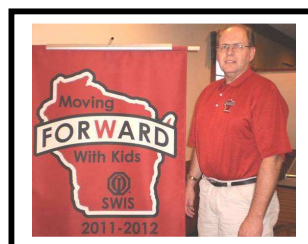
**Howard Crofoot**  
**SWIS Sec/Treasurer**  
[treasurer@swisdistrict.or](mailto:treasurer@swisdistrict.or)

I am a member of the Platteville and Platteville Area Optimist Clubs. I am married and have a grown son serving in the Army in Afghanistan. I have been an Optimist for nearly 15 years serving at the Club level, as Lt. Governor for Barb Nelson, and for much of the time as SWIS Webmaster. My favorite Optimist activity is Santa Calling. In December our club works with the City Recreation Department to solicit information from parents who want Santa or Mrs. Claus to call. Armed with this information, the Optimists "assist" Santa & Mrs. Claus call good boys & girls in Platteville. The joy in their voices is worth it.

As SWIS Webmaster I have worked with Bonnie very closely over the years while she did the Newsletters and we have become great Optimist friends. When she decided to be Governor, she reached out to me for support. I accepted her request to be Secretary/Treasurer to continue the great working relationship we have built over the years. I encourage all of us to help Bonnie as we are "Moving ForWard With Kids" together as a SWIS Team.



**CoryAnn St Marie-Carls**  
**Immediate Past Governor**  
[Coryann.stmc@gmail.com](mailto:Coryann.stmc@gmail.com)



**Jerry Schewe**  
**Past Governor**  
[Schewe@centurytel.net](mailto:Schewe@centurytel.net)





**Amy Soleimani-Mafi**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 1**  
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#### Zone 1 Clubs

Milwaukee Metro  
 Mequon/Thiensville  
 Milwaukee  
 Waukesha  
 Mukwonago  
 Milwaukee Area Young Professionals  
 Menomonee Falls  
 West Bend

I first became involved with the Optimist organization 10 years ago, as a freshman in the Student Optimist Club at UW-Whitewater. I had actually just received a scholarship from the Menomonee Optimist Club for school that past summer when I stumbled across the organization at the college-level. I simply thought I would check out an organization that had first invested in me. I quickly became involved in the numerous activities with the Student Optimists and it was a natural fit for me. While at UW-Whitewater, I served in a number of roles, including Club President in the fall of 2004.

After college, I became active with the Mukwonago Optimist Club and was glad to make such a seamless transition to a traditional club. Almost immediately, I became active with the board, and this past year, I had the honor of serving as Club President. Last year, I found myself assisting in the building of the Metro Milwaukee Club to serve kids in my local vicinity. I remain active with both clubs and look forward to serving in the role of Lt. Governor for Zone One and learning more about the other clubs in our area and how I can assist them in their service of youth. I am also excited to serve as a co-chair of Tri-Star Sports with Joe Mundwiler for the District. I truly love the Optimist organization, the mission, our creed and the people with whom I am fortunate enough to work alongside. As we say at the end of the Creed. I am an "Optimist for Life!"



**Jo'EI Pearlman**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone**  
[eventplanner2000@hotmail.com](mailto:eventplanner2000@hotmail.com)

#### Zone 2 Clubs

Burlington  
 Racine Friday  
 Racine  
 Racine Tuesday  
 Kenosha

I had just moved back to Wisconsin and was looking for something special to do with my spare time when my dear friend Cathie, invited me to become an Optimist. She said, "Optimists bring out the best in kids and it brings out the best in us"! My friend was right!

Since becoming a member, I have learned some really great lessons like-how to toss a pizza in the air the *right way* from a 6 year old, I found out the best way to prepare for a triathlon from an 8 year old and even saw a dream come true for a very appreciative little girl who wished for her own bike. When she got the news that she was going to have a bike, her first thought was to share it with her friend who didn't have one. How can you not smile!

It has been a pleasure getting to know great people of all ages and I am thankful to be part of fun opportunities that help make a positive difference for kids in our local community and around the world. I look forward to this next year sharing ideas, celebrating Optimism and moving forward with kids.



**Kevin Austin**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 3**  
[kevjoeaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:kevjoeaustin@yahoo.com)

#### Zone 3 Clubs

Beloit Breakfast  
 Janesville Noon  
 Janesville Wed  
 Janesville BFT  
 Delavan/Darien  
 Milton  
 UW Whitewater Students  
 UW Whitewater Community

I was born and raised in Delavan and have been married for 16 years to Jolene. We have a 15-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter. I've been in the Delavan-Darien club for 10 years, recent club president. I am in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the Zone 3 Lt. Governor and co-chair of the Extreme flow SWIS District SKK8 Comp series. I joined optimist to give kids activities that are a positive alternative to destructive activities that are happening in our communities. As a Lt. Governor, I can see better how we operate as a district.

My favorite experience was during a fishing outing when two kids wanted to fish but didn't have poles. All our loaners were being used, but we had a free raffle to enter. We still had some poles left to give away, so we rigged it a little so they would win the poles to they could fish. When they won the poles, the smile of surprise made it all worth it.



**Lynn Miller**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 4**  
[lmiller@isadex.com](mailto:lmiller@isadex.com)

**Zone 4 Clubs:**

Jefferson  
 Cambridge  
 Ft. Atkinson  
 Oregon  
 Stoughton  
 Lake Mills  
 Sun Prairie

I'm a proud member since 2005 and Past President of the Stoughton Optimist Club. My husband Tim and I have 3 children. Our oldest son, Ryan works with Tim and me in our own business of web hosting and web design. Our other son, Adam and our daughter, Abbey, both attend UW Whitewater working on their Marketing and Accounting degrees.

I joined the Optimist Club after working with Bonnie and Howard on the SWIS District website. Everyone we met seemed so nice and working with kids seemed like a great idea. Our club held its first fishing clinic this past spring and what a rewarding experience. Both the kids and parents seemed to really enjoy themselves and said they would come back again next year and tell their friends. I'm looking forward to my year as Lt. Governor, visiting the clubs, meeting other Optimists and attending conferences.



**Maureen Crombie**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 5**  
[Maureen.crombie@wpsic.com](mailto:Maureen.crombie@wpsic.com)

**Zone 5 Clubs:**

Madison Breakfast  
 East Madison/Monona  
 Madison Downtown  
 McFarland  
 Cottage Grove  
 Monona Grove  
 Madison NE

I have been with the Monona Grove Optimist club since 04/11/05. Shortly after I joined the club I was appointed to the Board for the 2005-2007 years. I then served as Club Secretary for the 2007-2009 years. For the last two years I served as President of our club. I have been able to attend many of the district conferences and training sessions. This year I attended the International Convention in Baltimore and brought back with me exciting ideas and felt regenerated. I'm excited to be Lt. Governor for zone 5. I am also looking forward to visiting the clubs in zone 5 and finding out more about what they do in their clubs to make a difference for our youth. After all, we are all about the kids and ready to move forward into the 2011-2012 year.

An Optimist touches many children and these children are our future. I truly believe it takes a village to raise a child and that we can make a difference in their lives. I grew up in Columbus WI with 4 brothers and 3 sisters. Right after high school I moved to Madison, WI to attend college and graduated from Edgewood with a double major in Elementary Education and Psychology. Since high school I have always been involved in volunteering my time to make a difference for a child. I have two grown children. Keelan recently graduated from Madison College with degrees in Finance and Business and plans on attending Upper Iowa in the spring. Ian also recently received a degree from Madison College in Construction Remodeling and is currently studying Business Management.



**Gary Engelke**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 6**  
[engelkeg@plattevillerealty.net](mailto:engelkeg@plattevillerealty.net)

**Zone 6 Clubs:**

Platteville      Platteville Area,  
 LaCrosse BFT      Fennimore  
 Darlington      Brodhead  
 Dodgeville      Monroe  
 Monroe Noon

I joined Optimist in 2004, have been on the board if directors, 2nd vice president, president and built the present Platteville area noon club on my watch. Was Lt Governor last and will keep that position through Bonnie's governorship. I enjoy my grand children which we have a recent addition of a new grandson. This gives us 4 grand children now and any body that has any know what a joy they to have. My wife Eileen is also a member of the Platteville Optimist Club, so we enjoy it together. I also run a card business with my daughter and we have met and had joined us many other clubs, churches and businesses to help grow their business.



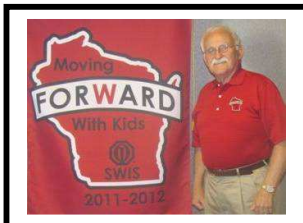
**John Scherer**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 7**  
[john@trinfin.com](mailto:john@trinfin.com)

**Zone 7 Clubs:**

Cross Plains      Fitchburg  
 Middleton        Mt. Horeb  
 West Madison    Verona  
 Mazo/Wisconsin Hgts  
 Sauk Trails-Madison

I joined the Sauk Trails Optimist Club (on the west side of Madison) in 1995 and was President in 1997-98 and again in 2010-11. One of the reasons I joined the Club was because I love volunteering for Special Olympics, and one of our primary Club activities is running the district track meet for Special Olympics. Special Olympics of Wisconsin named our Club the Volunteer Organization of the Year in 1999, receiving that award on behalf of my Club remains a highlight of my Optimist experience.

I live in Middleton with my wife of 17 years Alison (who joined the Club in 2005 after years of volunteering and participating as a guest!) and our pound-puppy Scout. The Sauk Trails Club includes in its membership both a past SWIS Governor (Steve Bailey) and a current SWIS Governor (Bonnie!) and I'm honored to be able to follow in their footsteps this year to help our district keep Moving ForWard with Kids in 2011-12!



**Fred Dorn**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov., Zone 8**  
[fdorn@chorus.net](mailto:fdorn@chorus.net)

**Zone 8 Clubs:**

Baraboo  
 Beaver Dam  
 Lodi  
 Portage  
 Sauk Prairie  
 Waunakee

I joined the Waunakee Optimist Club in June of 1984 and was President of the club just 2 years later. At the club level, I'm the current Treasurer and have been president many times. I have attended several International Conferences, including the conference in Montreal. I have been a Lt. Governor several times, District Foundation Chair several times, and have agreed to be the Foundation Representative again this year. I feel that the most important thing that an Optimist needs to do, is to attend the District Conferences and Training sessions. This keeps one powered up for everything that occurs in one's life. My greatest experiences in Optimism have occurred when attending these conferences. Many new friends are discovered and we always look forward to seeing those old friends again. I am married to Maggie, my bride of 45 years, and we have two children who are above 40 years of age, and a grandson who just turned one year old.



**Carole Klopp**  
**SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 9**  
**JOOI Clubs**  
[klopp@chorus.net](mailto:klopp@chorus.net)

**Javier Cifuentes**  
**JOOI Governor, 2011-2012**  
[mkayjc17@yahoo.com](mailto:mkayjc17@yahoo.com)

**Monroe Students of Service –  
 High School JOOI Club**

**Zone 9, JOOI Clubs:**

Whitewater Middle School Junior  
 Mt. Horeb Junior Club  
 Monroe Junior Optimist Club  
 Janesville Green Beret JOOI Band  
 Del/Darien Comet Junior Club  
 Whitewater High School Club  
 Monroe Students of Service  
 Janesville Joseph Craig High School  
 Madison Spartan Youth Service Team  
 Lake Mills Octagon Club  
 McFarland Youth Center  
 Kenosha Tremper Octagon

Carole is a newly appointed Lt. Governor for Zone 9, JOOI Clubs. She has been the lead adviser for Spartan Youth Service JOOI Team for the past 17 years, since the club's inception. She has seen the club grow from 25 students to the over 200 students who join every year. The club does numerous service projects every year, including organizing the all school "SPIRIT Day" where students fan out into the community doing service for a morning every April. Carole has been a Sauk Trails Optimist for 10 years and is a Past President of that club. Having just retired as Volunteer Director for Middleton Outreach Ministry, Carole currently volunteers with the Madison Metropolitan School District in 2 schools, is on the Board of Directors for John Muir Academy and is very active in her church.

### JOOI 2011/12 Starts Off with a "BOO" at the October 22 Conference

JOOI is starting the year off with the Baraboo Conference on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. All JOOI clubs are invited to attend our conference whose theme is "BaraBOO" – it's Halloween time. We'll be meeting each other, doing a service project, presenting at the adult conference and having some fun! Each club should plan to send at least 2 or 3 members – hopefully in costume. There will be a charge of \$10 per person to cover the cost of the lunch and registration materials. All clubs will be contacted within the next week to confirm status and conference attendance. (Register: [www.swisdistrict.org](http://www.swisdistrict.org) website, early bird rate \$10 on/before Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, otherwise \$15).

JOOI-Fully Yours,

**Carole Klopp**

SWIS Lieutenant Governor, Zone 9 JOOI

**Javier Cifuentes**, JOOI Monroe Club

JOOI Governor 2011/2012

### SWIS District's Challenge for Honor Club, 2011-2012

We have been challenged by International President Jack Creswell to "Give 100% and then some" to grow our service for youth. The 2011-2012 criteria for Club Recognition, which will be continuing for 5 years, includes

1. "Bringing Out the Best" Club  
(*banner patch then year bar thereafter*)
  - Add at least one member.
  - Be current on District and OI dues.
  - Recognize Club member or local community individual.
2. Honor Club:  
(*banner patch, year bar with Club President's name/year and \$100 credit on next dues billing*)
  - Sponsor at least three service projects a year.
  - Recognize a Club or community member.
  - Grow Club by Net plus 1 (*Example: Oct. 1 have 30 club members, 2 drop, need to add 3*)
  - Be current on District and OI dues.
3. Distinguished Club:  
(*watch for club President, secretary and/or treasurer. Banner patch with Club President's name/year and \$250 credit on next dues billing*)
  - Meet honor Club Criteria plus.
  - Net of 15 OR Charter a New Club.

A club pre-planning report between Lt. Governor's and Club President's, to help with communication, is the ACPC—Annual Club Planning Conference Report. Suggestion is to have that completed by November 15, 2011.

The Officer Elect Report for the following year's 12-13 officers needs to be initially submitted by mid-May.

The President's Pride, submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 is for a club president to identify and share the accomplishments of his/her club with the SWIS District Officers and Optimist International.

In the 11-12 year, more Incentives will be identified. Attendance at the First Quarter Conference in Baraboo on October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the 'start' of one of the many defined incentives that will be recognized.

We all know more members translate directly to more kids being served: each member equates to 35 kids. New members bring new ideas for projects and fundraisers for your Club, and provide additional community service projects. Building new clubs brings optimism and service to youth where it didn't previously exist. International President Jack believes that with having the greatest programs in the world we should be helping more kids every year, which starts with growing our clubs.

**Bonnie Spindler**, Governor 2011-2012

Articles for the SWIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Newsletter are due to [joanmkenney@hotmail.com](mailto:joanmkenney@hotmail.com) Before the Christmas Holidays. The SWIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Conference will be Feb. 10-11, 2012 in Middleton at the Hilton Gardens Inn. The registration and newsletter will be distributed in early Jan. 2012. Requests will be made mid-Dec. for those articles.

**Joan Kenney**, Newsletter Editor/Distributor

### Club Performance Recognition—CPR Program:

The CPR program can be used by SWIS clubs to share some of their programs / events / activities with other SWIS clubs. An on-line document will be provided for basic information that will be captured and shared between clubs by the CPR Chair. Clubs can also enter any project in the OI CPA program. More information will be provided at the SWIS 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr conference.

**Sheila Van Dam**, CPR Chair.

## Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

We are ready for another great year for the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). This is put on by Optimist International each year. We also do a district contest. The contest is open to students with at least a 40db hearing loss through grade 12. The students give a 4-5 minute presentation either signed or spoken or a combination of these. The topic for this year's contest is, "**How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles**". The district winner receives a scholarship. If you have a student whom is interested or would like more information please contact me at [dlsiowski@charter.net](mailto:dlsiowski@charter.net) Info is also available on the Optimist International website.

Thanks! **Donna Cairy**, SWIS District CCDHH Co-Chair

## Essay Contest for 2012 focuses on a Positive Outlook

The 2010/2011 Optimist Essay Contest was a huge success, and I want to thank all of the clubs which held contests. We had 21 club-winning essays--and that's a great number. I hope we can have even more for this year. So let's get to the info for this year:

Topic: "**How My Positive Outlook Benefits My Community**".  
Length: 700-800 words, plus bibliography if quotes used.

Important rules: Entrant must be under 18 by December 31, 2011, must not have not graduated high school/gotten a GED, can't have competed in any other club contest during the year, and can't have won a club essay contest previously. This is not to say that only high school seniors can apply; the 2010-2011 SWIS club winners ranged in age from 11-18 (when district judging began in March). In fact, the district winner was 13 years old.

Forms can be downloaded from OI's website. All club-winning entries MUST be turned in to me by February 28th.

**Don Kresch**, Essay Chair [donkresch@att.net](mailto:donkresch@att.net)

## 2012 ORATORICAL CONTEST "How my Optimism Helps me Overcome Obstacles"

Each year Districts can choose the type of Oratorical Contest to conduct whether it is a separate boys and separate girls contest or combined boys and girls contest. In addition, this year OI has set the maximum age of 18 as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the 2011-2012 school year for the Contest. However, Districts are allowed to establish a lower age.

This past summer representatives from all Clubs were asked to complete a survey regarding these two issues. A significant majority of Clubs responded with the recommendations listed below which the SWIS District Board voted in favor of:

1. Combined gender contest with 3 scholarships (\$2500-\$1500-\$1000)
2. Age maximum less than 16 as of 12-31-11

For the first time our District will run a combined boys and girls contest! This means that at all levels (Club-Zone-District) boys and girls will compete together. Each Club can then send its top two winners to the next level of the Contest. In addition, the age maximum for our District has been established under the age of 16 as of 12-31-11. This has been the standard age requirement all but one of the last 16 years I have had the honor of chairing this event. The majority of the Clubs that have consistently run contests have targeted this younger segment specifically Middle School youth.

The Oratorical Contest is a great opportunity for the kids to gain experience in public speaking and have a chance to win one of three college scholarships – a significant change from past years! There is no minimum number of contestants at the Club level. This year's theme seems to focus on core values – "How my Optimism Helps me Overcome Obstacles". Using this theme, boys and girls prepare and recite a 4 – 5 minute speech judged on Poise, Content, Delivery and Effectiveness.

You can start the process by obtaining the Oratorical Contest Club Chair Packet which is a complete planning guide for running a club contest. This information can be found on the Optimist International's web site at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). Click on Members/Clubs & Districts/Programs /Oratorical Contest and you are there. You will need to change the age on the application provided in the Packet from 18 to 16 before distributing.

Club contests are usually held in January, February and March. The next level is Zone Contests are held in March and April. The final District Contest will be held on Sat., May 12, 2012 at our 3<sup>rd</sup> District Conference at the Wilderness in the Dells area.

**Jim Costanzo**, District Oratorical Co-Chair  
(608) 849-7747 (608) 206-2060 (cell) [jvito@chorus.net](mailto:jvito@chorus.net)



## Childhood Cancer Dollar Match Challenge!

I am pleased to announce that the West Side Optimist Club has graciously decided to provide a dollar for dollar matching donation up to \$2,000 to any SWIS Optimist Club who sends me a contribution for the CCC SWIS District Optimist fund. As a reminder (or if you haven't heard), my goal is for every club to come together in one joint effort to make a contribution to the American Family Children's Hospital. Many of the rooms at the new hospital have not been completely furnished so this joint contribution would go a long way in supporting the children and families of the hospital.

If your club has not already made a donation, I ask you to consider this in your budget. While many clubs have given a higher dollar value, I initially asked for a contribution from each club of \$100. If every club participated, this would be a tremendous donation to the hospital.

The main focus of the CCC program is to accentuate different areas of service on which members can focus: Support to children diagnosed and receiving treatment for cancer; Support to families and care partners of children with cancer; and Support to health care and service providers. A donation would cover every aspect of this tremendous goal.

Please call me at (608) 577-9083 or email me at [LitscJW@gmail.com](mailto:LitscJW@gmail.com) if you are interested in making a donation.

Thanks! **John Litscher**, CCC Chair

## Tri-Star Sports Update

As we conclude our 2010-2011 Optimist year, we can rightly be pleased about having positively affecting so many young people with our programs and projects. It would be nice and easy to sit back and relax after a job well done, however, as we all know, next year will bring more and greater demands on our time. We start the service process all over again on October 1st, just a few days away. Most of us start our Optimist year with planning what we want to accomplish. Our plans include projects and programs we've traditionally supported. We also have needs constantly coming at us from our local communities. In these trying times, the needs are great and the resources are diminished, so we have to make a lot of difficult decisions on what we can support.

We hope you will continue to support Tri-Star Sports in your communities. Although we've had some slight declines in the number of clubs participating the last few years, Tri Star Basketball is still the largest youth gathering in the SWIS District each year (at least on the district level). Our SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball event is scheduled for April 14, 2012 at Mukwonago High School in Mukwonago.

We learned last year that by moving this district event from mid-March to Mid-April, we had far fewer 'no shows.' We believe this is because we were in a time frame with less competition for the kids time. This also gives you, at the club level, an additional month to select a date for your local contest, so you can hopefully choose a time when there will be fewer demands on the young people's time, and also allows your clubs to have more planning time.

Starting at the SWIS District meeting in October, we will have materials and people available to answer questions about the program and to encourage you to get your clubs involved. As always, Amy and I will be available to you at any time! If you have questions – or need practical support for your efforts. We wish you all the best in the upcoming Optimist year. Let's do everything we can to make it a meaningful year for our local communities. Tri-Star Co-Chairs, **Joe and Amy**.

**Joe Mundwiler**, 211 Muirfield Circle, North Prairie WI 53153. 262-392-2355. Cell: 414-416-6551

Fax: 262-392-2355 (please call first), [mundwilerconsulting@wi.rr.com](mailto:mundwilerconsulting@wi.rr.com)

**Amy Soleimani-Mafi**, 6501 West Greenfield Avenue #411, West Allis, WI 53214. Cell: 608-436-1815

[amy.soleimani@gmail.com](mailto:amy.soleimani@gmail.com)

## The 2011 Football Sweepstakes Tickets:

The tickets needed to be turned in by Oct. 1, 2011 to qualify for this year's sweepstakes. Keep in mind that due to the shortened season this year, if most of the tickets out there are sold, the selling clubs can expect to receive a much greater check for the amount of tickets sold. We must remember that the reason for selling these tickets is the smiles that we can see on the faces of the youngsters in our communities, not the fact that someone will win if they are lucky.

**Fred Dorn**, Football Sweepstakes Coordinator

## Supply Ordering Update:

Supply Chair, Dennis Skonecki will be contacting club officers about any supplies they would like to order 3 weeks before each conference. By combining club orders, everyone saves on shipping. Pick-up will be at the conferences. Letters coming by e-mail and US mail.

## Optimist International Foundation Update

Dear SWIS District Optimist Clubs,

I recently looked over the donations that have been collected to date for the Foundation, and I noticed that we are considerably behind previous years at this point in our Optimist year.

At the beginning of each Optimist year, I have asked all SWIS District clubs to send the name of their club Foundation Representative to me. This person's responsibility is to work with the clubs Board of Directors in putting together the club's donation to the Foundation. This person also works with the Club President at the club meetings to encourage the members to donate to the OI Foundation.

Donations to the Foundation are extremely important, because the Foundation releases a tremendous amount of funds back to the Districts and Clubs in the form of Scholarships and materials that clubs need on an ongoing basis. At the International Convention of Optimist International which was held in Baltimore on the first weekend of July, just over a week ago, our Foundation training session was geared toward the need of funding for the many benefits that the Foundation does in helping Optimist International remain a tremendous asset to the health of Optimist clubs across the Globe. If it wasn't for the Foundation donations that are received every year, our Optimist dues might be a whole lot higher on an annual basis. So please keep this in mind when you decide to donate to the Foundation or not.

One of the easiest ways to donate is to have every member of a club donate to the Dime A Day club. If every club in the SWIS District did this, our District would be able to donate \$73,000.00 to the Foundation with just this one action. It is so easy to get your club involved. Just go to the [www.swisdistrict.org](http://www.swisdistrict.org) website, and click on the dime on the right side of the home page, and the application for the Dime A Day will open up and you can print it out. Just have a club check sent to me with all the applications filled out with your club number on the application, and the name and address of all your club members and I will submit the applications for you. Make sure that you send all donations to me so the SWIS District gets the credit.

Please consider becoming involved with Foundation donations this year. The kids all over the world will benefit from your donations. If other donations are sent to me for the Foundation, please write "Unrestricted Funds" in the memo section.

**Fred Dorn**, Foundation Representative, SWIS District

## New Milwaukee Club Chartered!

Gloria Kloster officiated as promised over the organizational meeting of the Milwaukee Area Young Professionals Optimist Club last night on my b-day. Chartered with 31 members as a full club, 19 brand new charter members were in attendance. If anyone else wants to be added as a charter member let me know, now is the time. Completing the roster by midnight tonight.

WINUM Governor Mark Sprangers and Karen joined the occasion from Sheboygan. Special thanks to the sponsor, Milwaukee Optimist Club, Barb Brinkman, Tom and Errol joined her. Also to Delevan-Darien Club sponsor and mentor, with Joleen Austin & Ariel. Thanks also goes out to Lt. Governor Josh Zaidel, and Kevin Austin for their assistance. President Amy was there from Mukwonago and Joe from Metro Milwaukee. 4 other members from the Metro Club were there to celebrate my birthday too along with my sister. Our total attendance was 45 people.

The night went better than expectations and it was a great way to celebrate my birthday. Of course we had cake and went out for pizza after. Gloria got the young members excited about Optimism. Had the meeting at the Milwaukee Public Market in a public seating area. We attracted interest from others and I got to talk to some additional folks about Optimism. The public area meeting idea attracts attention...food for thought for other clubs!!!

**CoryAnn St.Marie-Carls**, Governor 2010-2011



Governor 11-12 Bonnie Spindler sitting behind Immediate Past Governor 10-11 CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls on a Harley Display for the Milwaukee International Convention, July 12-14, 2012. (Picture was taken in Baltimore at the 2011 Convention).

## Milwaukee Convention Coming Near – How You Can Help

TIME FLIES and before you know it, the 94<sup>th</sup> Optimist International Convention will be here in our own backyard, so to speak!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and experience the Bigger Picture of Optimism with Friends from all over the US, Canada and Caribbean Islands. Early in 2012, you will be able to go online to register for the convention. The Hilton, Hyatt and Double Tree are the hotels being used. **ALL volunteers need to be registered to attend and you may attend for one day or for the entire convention (of which I highly recommend).** If you have children, please consider getting them registered for the Youth Activities. The kids will meet numerous kids from all over and make lasting friendships!

The SWIS & WINUM Districts are working together to make this the BIGGEST Convention ever, so plan ahead to be there. **If you can volunteer your time and talents, please let me know by email: [jganske@wagnerinsurance.net](mailto:jganske@wagnerinsurance.net) Please put in the Subject area: VOLUNTEER for the Meet Milwaukee 2012 Optimist Convention.**

### We need Volunteers to help with the following:

- **SET-UP:** 2-3 helpers for Unloading the big semi truck 3 days before the convention begins.
- Daily help** - 2-3 volunteers are needed every day of the convention to move boxes from one room to another as directed.
- Chaperones for Youth Activities**
- **Appreciation Luncheon:** Hosts and Decorators.
- RISE N SHINE editor** – someone to do a daily newsletter ON SITE to be handed out each morning to the attendees that give newsy tips on the day's activities & special birthday or anniversary announcements, etc.
- Registration Help** (and welcoming Optimists to Milwaukee when handing out registration materials)
- Welcoming Committee** at the airport, or hotel for our Optimist Guests
- Special Tailgate Party** volunteers needed to welcome our guests & show them how a good old fashioned Wisconsin Tailgate party happens with all the great food & beverage.

**Please decide on where you would like to volunteer & we'll get you set up with the Volunteer Coordinator in our Host Area Committee. \*\*\*ALSO....very mega-important!! None of this is Free...don't we know, so....**

----**FUNDRAISING money is needed and appreciated for all clubs! (In gifts or money!) Maybe you know someone who knows someone who can help with a larger donation.** We need large amounts of **gifts** for all luncheon attendees (**500 plus**), so if you know of a company that would like to get their name recognized by 2000+ Optimists, please let us know. Maybe a candy company, cheese company, wine company, cranberry company, maple sugar company, etc, etc. We can give the company advertising for all attendees. We can help the company get involved in the House of Optimism to promote their product(s) that might could be available by mail-order...or possibly a fundraiser for the clubs!

---**We need Youth & Chaperone T-Shirts**, so if your club would like to SPONSOR those items, that would be wonderful. Just let me know! If your club can do a special fundraiser, it'd be greatly appreciated. We already have someone to print up the shirts; but we need to pay for them.

I did hand out a special letter to all club Presidents of 2010-11 and 2011-12; requesting a donation of at least \$5 per member or more from your club. **We could use this donation please no later than March 1**, so we can get our Host Area Committee budget organized for the 2012 Milwaukee Convention! (The sooner the better). You may mail your check(s) to Joanne Ganske, %Wagner Insurance; PO Box 10, Cross Plains, WI 53528; or mail directly to our Meet Milwaukee 2012 Treasurer: **Mark Miller, 803 Michigan Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081. Checks may be made payable to: Milwaukee 2012 OI Convention Fund.**

For your club's donation, a Special Sponsor Banner Patch for the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual OI Convention plus your club's name will be entered in the OI Convention Brochure/Agenda Booklet for all to see. If you want to donate individually, your personal name will be listed in the OI Brochure/Agenda Booklet at the convention also.

**Joanne Ganske** [jganske@wagnerinsurance.net](mailto:jganske@wagnerinsurance.net)  
Host Area Committee Chair (SWIS District) 608-576-4433 (cell) 608-798-6302 (office-direct)

**Laurel Schirmer (WINUM)** [Schirmer.laurel@att.net](mailto:Schirmer.laurel@att.net)  
Host Area Committee Co-Chair 920-946-7246 (cell)

PS. **Meet Milwaukee T-Shirts are still available** for \$25 & I'll take orders at the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter conference in Baraboo.  
Thank you for being Optimists!

## Governor's Report For Year 2010-2011 by CoryAnn St.Marie Carls, Governor 2010-2011

**Thank you for all you have done** as part of the SWIS team this year. Many of you are working with Bonnie and we will all continue to work side by side for the youth of Wisconsin. To those of you who strived to help your home clubs reach Honor Club - I give you a special shout out! Your dedication to our Legacy and health of our District in new membership is all important and has not gone unnoticed! **(Menomonee Falls will receive recognition as our District leader in membership).**NOTE: If we are too busy with our District not to help our own clubs grow...we are not doing our job.

**Report on My Action Plan** which has been on our SWIS Website for my term as Governor. The original statements are below with the **FOLLOW UP IN RED**. Please read and review. Don't forget the reference documents that follow - please take a chance to review them.

1. I will meet my pledge to international President Danny Rodgers to build on our solid foundation and provide NEW members in our District to secure our Legacy. I will do this with an innovative and helpful "Power Up" membership plan **(DONE)** and kit from the District which will involve all clubs Powering Up with a membership night/event between Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day! **Many Clubs went back and started NOW programs that they had not been doing before, thanks for your participation.**

2. I will work to get our members talking to each other more often, with more varied meeting opportunities, and more personal growth, leadership and friendship. **I thank all of those members who attended these meetings; we need more members to take advantage of the energy of coming together as a Team!**

Feb 5 - Madison Area for our "Power Up" Rally, Rally **was excellent and 73 members attended**

Apr 9 - District Super Zone Mtg. at our Tri-Star Basketball District Competition – **8 Clubs attended**

May 7 - Wisconsin Dells for Oratorical/Essay, **75 members attended with International V.P. Gloria Kloster**

Aug 6 -Milwaukee, Convention and State Fair Fun, **62 members attended, with International Rep. Barb Scirto**

3. I have created the New Zone 6 to tap the knowledge and experience of these Clubs and encourage them to "pass on" what they have been able to establish for the greater good. **A BEST PRACTICES Document was developed from the work with this NEW Zone. A copy is provided in this newsletter for your club to add to and use as a guideline.**

### My Goals:

1<sup>st</sup> - Increase the depth and breadth of our values, leadership, and friendships as Optimists and "pass it on". **Please see my "I" in Optimist, message that follows – to help you "pass it on" and keep thinking and learning about your Optimism. I was pleased to send every Officer a "Power Up" pin, and Christmas Card with messages and encouragement to spread Optimism in our District. A printed District Directory was sent to Officers for better communications.**

2<sup>nd</sup> - Broaden our networks to help Southern Wisconsin youth by providing resources for all clubs to reach their full potential, while working closer to strengthen our District. **We did this by providing each Club Membership Kits/Postcards, and with Face Book, New On-Line Conference Registration and a Best Practices Document.**

3<sup>rd</sup> - Move our District "UP" reinforcing upfront and center; the true feeling that helping just one child ALWAYS makes a difference, is ALWAYS worth the effort and is the core of Optimism. This genuinely demonstrates Unlimited Possibilities, this is why we do what we do! **I have worked on 7 club building possibilities this year. In an effort to keep my Balloon moving up until my term was completed as Governor, I chartered the Milwaukee Area Young Professionals Optimist Club, on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, my Birthday! By spreading our message of Optimism to the Young Professionals of Milwaukee I can make ONE of my unlimited possibilities a reality. I will also build the first club for Governor Bonnie at UWL.**

4<sup>th</sup> - Most importantly, I want to be available to make personal connections with leaders like you in this District toward progress and planning for my year. Feel free to contact me at any time and pass all emails you receive from me on to your members! Take advantage of our District & OI Websites. **It was my pleasure to travel the full extent of our District from borders like Kenosha, Lacrosse, and Platteville to see the great work our Optimists do in our District. I acknowledged the anniversaries of our Clubs and announced them at the May and August conference, as a reason to celebrate. This year the following Clubs had anniversaries! I encourage all Clubs to celebrate their club anniversaries just as if you were celebrating with your family a special occasion; because as Optimists we are a family. Milwaukee 95yrs, Waukesha 65yrs, Madison Breakfast 55yrs, Sauk Prairie 50yrs, Racine Tuesday 50yrs, Mequon Thiensville 35 yrs, Stoughton 30yrs, Whitewater 20yrs, Kenosha 20yrs, Cross Plains 20yrs, Fennimore 5yrs, Fitchburg 5 yrs.**

Once again, I ask you sincerely to accept the challenge to "Power Up" the SWIS District for youth for the coming year with Governor Bonnie Spindler. **Together** is the key to Unlimited Possibilities for ourselves, for our Clubs, and for our Youth. **I THANK YOU FOR MAKING MY YEAR SO MEMORABLE AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO JOIN – A "FRIEND OF OPTIMIST" this is our great new opportunity to spread our Optimism! I also ask you not to miss being at our International Convention in Milwaukee July 12-14.**



## Southern Wisconsin District of Optimist International "Best Practices" Quick Guide for Clubs – August 2011



As our Clubs and Communities evolve sometimes knowing what we should change and what should stay the same becomes a challenge. It is good to share some of the Best proven ways to get the job done as we peruse Optimist International projects, needs of our Community, and the needs and interest of our members. A 3 fold balance is essential to a thriving Club. Here's some research from our Zone 6 successful clubs in our 2010-11 year and how they reach consistent success. Use this list for ideas - add to it with your own Club traditions.

*Optimistically, CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls, Governor, 2010-11*

### Meetings:

- 1 hour – once called to order
- Have a raffle, game or fellowship activity
- Always say pledge of allegiance
- Always wear name tags
- Have 2 to 4 meetings a month
- Program speaker and topic once per month – should include the youth you serve 4 times
- Always put up banners
- Always give speakers a gift

### Fellowship:

- 2 fun member, family and friends events a year
- Always send out occasion cards for Birthdays etc.
- Always plan "thank you" recognition
- Calling Tree – "have not seen you in a while"?
- Have Logo wear for your club accessible to all
- Keeping Veteran's involved and evolved!

### Leadership Development:

- Tap into your members personal interests/charities
- Keep asking and assume everyone will be a future leader.
- Involve at least 75% of members in activities

### Optimist International:

- Give yearly to the Foundation and promote individual giving to OIF.
- Keep in Communication with District Officials
- Attend District meetings – Officers and Members
- Have members involved as District Officers/Chairs
- Use OI resources often

### Membership:

- Have a membership event every year
- Put a Membership certificate in a frame
- Have a formal installation ceremony at a club event
- Mentor New members
- Invite guests to fellowship events
- Have a membership brochure or letter developed
- Add 3-5 new members a year minimum
- (NEW) Friends of Optimist – add 2-3 a year

### JOOI -

- Sponsor a club – Partner with them for service
- Always go to [www.swisdistrict.org](http://www.swisdistrict.org) for more information and resources or [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)

### Youth Programs:

- Run 4 - OI or District Programs a Year
- When in doubt of what to do – Turn to our OI programs!
- Have a "community contoured" youth program

### Communication:

- Produce a Club Member Directory – with ByLaws/Policies/Core Activities
- News report or Newsletter after every meeting
- Calling Tree – "have not seen you in a while"?
- Secretary/Treasurer uses Optimist Leaders and/or stays current with paperwork/payments.
- Have P.O. Box
- Always try for publicity and public recognition

### Finance:

- OI/District Bills paid on schedule
- Dues billed for early and often
- Pay for members training at District or OI.
- Board Approval all projects Financial and otherwise for Insurance Purposes

### Giving:

- Value added sponsorships and donation
- Ask for recognition, promotion, identification
- Co-Sponsor a community event
- See "Value Added" Sheet attached for more details
- Keep involvement – do not exceed 25% of pure check writing.

### Fundraising:

- Have at least 1 major fundraiser over \$5,000 or more  
NOTE: (volunteer hours should be considered do not over extend members –find a fundraiser that maximizes hours given)
- Have a raffle once a year
- Don't take on anything with under 50% net profit (include labor if seems too labor intensive)

### Community Service

- Partner with existing community agencies
- Partner with Existing Youth groups for labor
- Co-Sponsor High Profile community events

The "I" in Optimist  
Insight, Inspiration, Itinerary, & Imagination!  
"I" am an Optimist.

Insight: Understanding

Inspiration: Influence by example; stir to action

Itinerary: route or outline to a journey

Imagination: Act or power of forming a mental image; creative ability

Power "up" with the "I" in Optimist !

*Food for your Optimist Thoughts....CoryAnn  
St. Marie-Carls, Governor SWIS District 10-11*

# *Southern Wisconsin Optimists* **District Oratorical Contest**

**Topic: "How my Optimism Helps me Overcome Obstacles"  
2011-2012**

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- Date:** Saturday, May 12, 2012
- "NEW" Awards:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners receive a **\$2500, \$1500 & \$1000** college scholarship & plaque. All contestants receive lapel pins and framed certificates.
- "NEW" Eligibility:** Contestants under the age of **16** as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the 2011-12 school year. Combined boy and girl contests at all levels (Club-Zone-District). No minimum number per Club Contest.
- Requirements:** Speech is limited to 4-5 minutes.
- Components:**
- |                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Poise (appearance, personality) ..... | 20 points |
| Content of speech .....               | 35 points |
| Delivery and presentation .....       | 35 points |
| Overall effectiveness.....            | 10 points |
- Schedule:**
- Club Contests ..... January, February, March
- Zone Contests ..... March and April
- Scheduled and organized by the Lt. Governors of each zone
  - Minimum 3 Clubs per ZONE Contest.
  - Must be completed by April 21, 2012
  - Zone winner information submitted no later than April 23, 2012
- District Contest..... Saturday, May12, 2012, 8:30 AM to Noon
- Location:** 3<sup>rd</sup> District Conference – Wilderness, WI Dells-Lake Delton area
- Contact:** Jim Costanzo, District Co-Chair [jvito@chorus.net](mailto:jvito@chorus.net)  
5619 Cobblestone Lane  
Waunakee, WI 53597-9000  
Home phone: 608.849.7747, Cell phone: 608.206.2060

## **Optimist Creed: Promise yourself:**

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.  
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.