

SWIS 2012 - 2013 Newsletter





Volume 16, Issue 3

April / May / June 2013

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Message from Governor Larry

Optimists throughout the SWIS District, I hope you're all doing well, despite the miscalculation of the groundhog. The old saying goes like this, "The first day of Spring (March 21st) is one thing, but the first Spring day is another!" Have we had that first day of Spring as of yet, I don't know.

Well, despite our slow start to warmer weather, Optimists all over the SWIS District have found productive ways to stay very busy. Local Tri-Star basketball contests are concluding, with the finals scheduled for this Saturday, April 13th in Mukwonago.



Essay entries were called for by February 28th and the winner will be announced next month at conference. Club Oratorical contests are now leading to Zone competitions, with the finals in Wisconsin Dells at our 3rd Quarter Conference. Results of our communication competition for our CCDHH friends will also be shared in the Dells.

In addition, these last six weeks saw young women competing to be distinguished. Twenty-one young people in Menomonee Falls were recognized with citations for "doing the right thing." Fishing tournaments for our local kids are now being planned by several Clubs in the District. Thoughts are even turning to scheduling golf outings and picnics. Our Clubs are busy, despite the weather.

Let's talk about our SWIS 3rd Quarter Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. When opinions were sought, many suggested that a return to the Kalahari would be welcomed after being down the street for the past two years. All the resorts in the Dells are great and present special opportunities. The Kalahari just seems to be more user-friendly, especially as we welcome our younger guests. Always popular, water park passes are included with every room.

The agenda for the weekend is in the process of being finalized. Besides revealing the District's winners in Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests, so many other good things are scheduled to happen. Marc Katz, our OI Certified Trainer, will be on-board from Detroit to discuss a number of topical Optimist issues with us. Our Whitewater Student Club is going to give us a dynamic Social Media presentation, so Club leaders bring your computers, iPads and iPhones to get the most out of their presentation. They'll also talk about their upcoming humanitarian trip to Burkina Faso, Africa later this year. Current projects and committee activities will be reviewed. You'll get your questions answered about the OI Convention in Cincinnati over July 4th. The JOOI kids will be with us for an update. Personnel Development ideas will be discussed and we'll focus on three tenants of the Creed, as a continuation of what we started at the February Convention. We hope the Conference will feature something of interest for every Optimist - plan to join us.

Now, let's take a second and reflect on "why" you should be in the Dells? Nothing beats our mission of "Bringing out the Best in Kids." No other service organization "does it like we do!" We're Club-driven - that's the level where we inspire kids to reach a higher level. As you all know, we've had some membership slippage, but we're still a strong, time-tested organization that gets its batteries recharged by being together sharing good things. It's also a forum that gives our leadership focus. We need to show that we care about our District, to show our strength and to demonstrate our belief in the Creed. We have 2,000 members in SWIS, we need to have more than 80 show up to indicate that we care about Optimism and that we're willing to invest in our future and the future of our Clubs. Come one, come all and share in the joy of "helping kids."

<continued on next page>

Let me mention one other thing before closing. As you ponder whether coming to the Dells will meet your expectations (convenient to get to from all SWIS locations), let me tell you that I felt somewhat the same way about going to our regional PDC in Rapid City, South Dakota two weekends ago. I did decide to go because this is our region and going was "the right thing to do." So I journeyed with Carl Trapp, Treasurer of the Menomonee Falls Club and John Leonhard, Governor of the WINUM District. Traveling through western Minnesota and then across

South Dakota, the only thing you're sure of encountering in late March, are more Wall Drug signs than you can count. For the most part, we got lucky with the weather and even luckier with the Conference. Lot's of topics, interesting choices, determined presenters and good fellowship made it the best Optimist Conference I've attended to-date. Optimism is strong. We are purposeful. We're guided by our Mission and supported by our Creed. We Believe!

I want you to continue to Believe, as well. We find strength in being together. Come to the Dells in May and celebrate the success of our efforts. You won't be disappointed!

Governor 2012-13 Larry Barbera



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.

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Eric DeGroot, Editor/Chair Brock Sarnstrom, Editor/Chair Amy Soleimani-Mafi, Copy Editor

E-mail future SWIS Articles to: swisnewsletter@gmail.com by July 15, 2013.

Thanks to Joan Kenney for three years as newsletter editor!

SWIS 3nd Quarter Conference May 10-11th, 2013 Kalahari Resort 1305 Kalahari Drive Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

ALL ROADS LEAD TO WISCONSIN DELLS IN MAY!

The user-friendly, adventure-inspired, Kalahari Resort is the site of May 10th-11th, 3rd Quarter SWIS District Conference.

Why should you attend? As an Optimist Leader and Officer in Clubs throughout the District, attendance at our quarterly conferences is really part of our commitment to "Bring out the Best in Kids." The success of kids is really the annual driving force for our 3rd quarter meetings. District winners in our Essay, CCDHH and Oratorical contests will be revealed. Marc Katz, our OI Certified Trainer from Detroit will be on-hand to work with us on our PDI program, among other things. Our great Student Optimist Club from UW-Whitewater will help us become more involved with the Social Media scene - so leaders, bring your computer devices. It is always fun to have the JOOI kids on-hand, too. We will continue our focus on the Creed. There's always plenty of opportunity for good fellowship - starting with our Hospitality Room on Friday evening. We'll also work on our mission to "help the kids of our communities."



Well, maybe there's one more thing - when it's time to PLAY - you'll be at the right place. The Kalahari has all the options to ensure a pleasurable stay for you and maybe your entire family. To put it simply, everything you can think to do, is right there, under one roof.

Now you don't have any excuse - register today! Did I mention that water park passes come with every room? See you in the Dells at the Kalahari, May 10^{th} and 11^{th} ! Early registration by April 26^{th} (after or at the door, add \$5.00





Sign Up Info

Register for 3rd quarter conference: http://www.swisdistrict.org/register/register.asp

Reservations at: www.kalahariresorts.com/wisconsin or call 1-877-525-2427



Start planning now to attend the

95th Optimist International Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio July 4-6, 2013 - Thursday through Saturday

The International Convention events will take place at the:

Duke Energy Convention Center 525 Elm Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Early Bird Registration by May 1, 2013

Advance Registration by May 31, 2013

When it comes to convenience, a lot of cities talk the talk, but they just can't walk the walk. Well in Cincinnati USA, you can walk just about everywhere. In fact, Prevention Magazine recently ranked Cincinnati as one of the Top 10 Most Walk able Cities in the U.S. There are countless restaurants, clubs, music venues and shopping stores within a two-minute walk from your hotel and Fountain Square. This compact, easy-to-navigate footprint lets attendees readily explore the city and find their inner energy before, between and after events.

- > Online registration available: http://www.optimist.org/reg/ConvReg_Member.cfm?e=CONV&m=2013
- Cincinnati Registration Form for members who prefer to print off and submit by mail or fax: http://www.optimist.org/Documents/Registration_Cincinnati_E.pdf

Housing: International Convention delegates can choose from one of two hotels. Before you book your travel and housing, please consider the days you want to come early and/or stay after the convention events. Your International Convention Committee is working on pre and post-convention events to take place on July 3rd and July 7th. Please also refer to the local attractions section on the website for other exciting activities that Cincinnati has to offer!

Millennium Hotel Cincinnati 150 West 5th Street Cincinnati. Ohio 45202

Connected to the Duke Energy Convention Center, few Cincinnati hotels can compete with the Millennium Hotel Cincinnati's prime downtown location. With the city's financial district, as well as hundreds of shops, bars and restaurants nearby, the hotel provides easy access to everything that's good in Cincinnati. Museums, art galleries and sports stadiums like Paul Brown Stadium and the U.S. Bank Arena are close by, including some to the finest attractions in the Midwest, such as Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Reservation options: By Telephone: call the hotel toll free at (800) 876-2100. Be sure to mention you are attending the **Optimist International Convention** in Cincinnati in July 2013. Online: visit www.millenniumhotels.com/cincinnati and enter Group Code **DE00170657**.

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza 35 West 5th Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Connected via skywalk to a number of shops and restaurants - and just a t block away from the Duke Energy Convention Center.

Reservation options: By Telephone: call the Hilton toll free at (800) 445-8667 and mention the group name "Optimist International Annual Convention" and the group code <u>OIA</u> to ensure you receive the group rate. Online: visit www.cincinnatinetherlandplaza.hilton.com, type in your arrival and departure date, and click the "Add special rate codes" link and type in "OIA."

See the Tentative Agenda and more information on early bird rates, advance rates, hotel rates and parking options at: http://www.optimist.org/e/member/convention1.cfm

SWIS CLUB ELECTIONS - 2012 - 2013 Year

Even though we just started spring, and the new optimist year doesn't start until October, its now time to elect new officers. The Club Officer Elect Report (COER) is due by May 20, 2013. Current Club officers can complete it by logging on to www.optimistleaders.org and going into the 'reports' area once logged in as a club officer. Print the form at: www.optimist.org/forms

The many communication resources we have today are the greatest assets we have. By receiving new officer information by May 20th allows the information to be input as time permits at OI, allows District personnel to update directories and web pages, and eliminates the need for District personnel to call you for information.

SWIS Governor elect for future year's information is available from Past Governor's. Having a candidate in this position by the 3rd Quarter Conference at Kalahari is needed for the health and future of SWIS Organization.

Bonnie Spindler

SWIS District's Challenge for Honor Club, 2012-2013

We have been challenged by International President J.C. St-Onge to "Give 100% and then some" to grow our service for youth. The 2012-2013 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
 - Complete at least two service projects a year
- 2. Honor Club: (banner patch, year bar with Club President's name/year and \$100 credit on next dues billing)
 - Grow Club by Net plus 1 (Example: October 1st have 30 club members, 2 drop, need to add 3)
 - > Be current on District and OI dues
 - > Recognize a Club member or local community member
 - Sponsor at least three service projects a year
- 3. **Distinguished Club:** (watch for club President, secretary and/or treasurer. Banner patch with Club President name/year and \$250 credit on next dues billing)
 - > Meet Honor Club criteria (listed above) plus Net of 15 members OR Charter a New Club.

The Officer Elect Report for the following year's 13-14 officers needs to be initially submitted by May 20, 2013.

The President's Pride is for club officers to identify and share club accomplishments with both the SWIS District and Optimist International. *Club Accomplishments can continually be updated during the year and then submitted BEFORE August 30th.*

We all know more members translates directly to more kids being served: did you know that **each club member equates to 35 kids being served**?! New members also 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 Jacques 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

Optimist International Incentives and Programs Update

Changes in the Honor/Distinguished Club Awards Program

Due to financial restraints, the Optimist International Board of Directors has voted to remove the monetary incentive from the International Awards program. The \$100 credit for Honor Club and \$250 credit for Distinguished Club achievement will no longer be available.

All other Honor Club requirements and recognition remain the same.

OI 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. The Optimist International Foundation is geared to 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.

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.optimist.org website, click on Foundation and look for the application for dime-a-day. Just have your 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 that 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, make sure that you write in "Unrestricted Funds" in the memo section.

Fred Dorn, Foundation Representative, SWIS District







New Club Building

There are a several people who have made sure to inform our current Governor of their commitment to act as a support team to any club or member that has a potential location to build a club. To name a few: **Jim Kondrasuk**, **Vern Andren** and



Cory Ann St. Marie-Carls! They have provided years of service to the district and their experience will provide an invaluable tool for new club building efforts. It has been suggested that the key to developing a successful new club is to have a LOCAL contact. The local contact should be a person who knows a few "key" individuals to develop a core group to start the process. Once such a core group is in-place, the SWIS district has many Optimists that will come in and help support the effort.

The new club area has to begin at the local level. It should have local interest and critical to the process is the commitment of support from the building club. This is great service project for any club - and a great way to re-energize an existing club.

The main advantage is that the new club will bring Optimist service to a new bunch of kids in a new community or expand Optimist services within a community that already has a club. It is a win-win for clubs, kids and communities.

Another way to look at new club possibilities is to consider it as an "annuity of service" – by developing a new club, kids and community will be served year after year.

JOOI Goes Viral



The JOOI District Council met February 24th via SKYPE to discuss various district issues. The main issue facing the district is communication between clubs. Thus, the Council decided to create a SWIS JOOI Facebook page to begin sharing the good news of JOOI. SWIS JOOI Clubs are encouraged to "friend" the SWIS JOOI Facebook page. Council members also decided to have an "in-person" JOOI District meeting in May at the Kalahari - the same time that



the adult clubs are meeting. The main agenda item will be the election of the new JOOI Governor and continued brainstorming as to how communications can be improved in our district. Suggestions are always welcome!

JOOIfully Submitted, Charles He SWIS JOOI Governor







Membership Update

End of 2nd Quarter

Our SWIS District membership as a whole is down 88 members for the year. In order to finish strong and keep optimism alive in Wisconsin and our local communities, we need to grow and attract new members and ideas. Have you considered hosting a membership event at one of your upcoming meetings? They are a lot of fun and pretty easy. The membership team even has a step-by-step guide to help make your event a success!

Please send an e-mail to <u>joshzaidel@me.com</u> with the name, e-mail and phone number of a membership contact person within your club, or call (262) 993-2516 and Josh will be happy to get in contact with you to provide some great support materials.

Also, please join me in *congratulating the Monroe Optimist Club for adding eight new members so far this year!* **WAY TO GO!** That's 280 new youth served in that community alone! There are multiple other clubs who are adding new members, too! Keep up the good work and keep spreading the joy you get from being an optimist to new members!

There are 59 clubs in the SWIS district and we're down 88 members. What if we could get that 88 down to 29? I challenge EACH club to add one new member before the 3rd quarter conference in Wisconsin Dells on May 11th. Will your club accept that challenge?

Josh Zaidel SWIS Membership Chair joshzaidel@me.com (262) 993-2516

UW-Whitewater Student Optimists Plan Service-Learning Trip to Burkina Faso

It has often been said that you haven't truly lived until you've done something for someone whom can never repay you, and the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club is once again setting out to do exactly that.

From January 3-17, 2014, 10 Student Optimists, 2 advisors and 6 community members will be traveling to Burkina Faso, Africa to complete a two-week service-learning trip. While in Africa, travelers will work on a number of youth-based initiatives, including collecting and delivering educational and medical supplies, building a computer lab at a local high school, creating a community garden to help feed school children and chartering a new Student Optimist Club at the University of Ouagadougou.

All of the travelers are dedicating sincere effort to synergize to use the talents and abilities of all of the travelers to best serve the communities they will be visiting. To do this, the club has partnered with Hassimi Traore, a UW-W Chemistry Professor and native of Burkina Faso. Hassimi and his wife Lauren Smith, also a UW-W faculty member, are both traveling with the group and are working with the students to plan and execute a series of projects that both offer much needed aid, as well as build stronger communities in the areas they are visiting. In the words of Megan Stevens, one of the Student Optimists, "That's the best part! We're not just traveling to a foreign land to do two weeks of goodwill and then coming back. We're offering the tools and support so that the spirit of optimism can continue to grow between the two groups."

Several travelers will be attending the SWIS District Conference May 10-11, 2013 in Wisconsin Dells to inform other members of the District of the club's upcoming endeavors. They are looking forward to sharing the goals of the trip, as well as serving as an example of how diligence and determination can help even the smallest of clubs to accomplish great feats.

Even with sunny outlooks and can-do spirits, planning and executing a two-week humanitarian endeavor in a foreign country is no small task. In particular, fundraising has presented a challenge, as the group is aiming to raise \$48,000. Student Optimists are collaborating with community members to find unique avenues for funding, as well as requesting the support of local businesses, community groups, individual donors and Optimist Clubs.

Club President Laura Schoenike commented, "As the UW-W Student Optimist Club works to continue to build the spirit of optimism at UW-Whitewater, we look to the clubs of the SWIS District as well as all of Optimist International as examples. We greatly admire and appreciate their generosity and all of the work they are doing to 'Bring out the Best in Kids.' We are hopeful that our fellow Optimists will once again support our efforts." Information on how local Optimist Clubs can offer their financial support is located on the flyer on the next page.

For more information about the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club and the upcoming service trip, please contact Kim Adams, Advisor, at adamsk@uww.edu or follow the travel blog at http://uwwstudentoptimist.blogspot.com.



UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club Service Learning Trip to Burkina Faso, Africa

Providing optimism and hands-on service to support communities in Burkina Faso through:

- *Building a computer lab
- *Creating sustainable gardens
- *Building a Student Optimist Club
- *Delivering soccer balls and interacting with children
- *Delivering medical supplies, equipment and knowledge
- *Delivering educational supplies and hygiene supplies

From January 3 - January 17, 2014, the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club and members of the surrounding community will travel to Burkina Faso, Africa. These individuals are dedicated to providing support to the communities through hands-on service projects such as building a computer lab and teaching technical skills in Dedougou, creating sustainable gardens in Dedougou, creating a student optimist club in Ouagadougou, and delivering medical and educational supplies to individuals Bobo Dioulasso.

As part of the service learning trip, travelers are raising funds to ship an ambulance to Dedougou. This ambulance would the first in the city and bring needed medical care to the community. The closest operating ambulance for this community is two hours away.

In addition to supplies and donations, travelers will be working to provide knowledge and resources to each community visited. Travelers will be able to teach students and teachers in the communities how to use and maintain the computers that are delivered, provide lectures and workshops teaching doctors and nurses how to use the medical supplies and the ambulance, and how to maintain and care for the garden to help provide food year round.

Your generous support allows this group to bring much needed medical supplies and knowledge, sustainable food, and optimism to a country in need. To make a donation, please send a check made out to the Optimist International Foundation to Kim Adams, 800 W. Main St., UC 250 Whitewater, WI 53190. All donations are tax deductible. For more information and updates on this project, please visit the UW-Whitewater Student Optimist Club Service Learning Trip blog at http://uwwstudentoptimist.blogspot.com/ or call Kim at 608-201-2151.





"AWARDS for 2011 - 2012"



"Bringing Out the Best" Awards:

Racine Wednesday
Racine Tuesday
Beloit Breakfast
Delavan Darien
Fort Atkinson
Cottage Grove
Monroe Tuesday
Platteville Area
Baraboo Club
Beaver Dam Club
Lodi Club
Portage Club

"Honor Club" Awards:

Milwaukee Metro Meguon Thiensville Milwaukee Club Mukwonago Club Kenosha Area Club Janesville Wednesday Oregon Brooklyn Stoughton Club Madison Breakfast Monroe Club Platteville Club **Brodhead Club** Cross Plains Club Mazo-Heights Club **Fitchburg Club** Sauk Prairie Club Waunakee Club



"Distinguished Club" Awards: All presented by Governor 2011-12 Bonnie Spindler and VP Great Plains Region, Judy Boyd.



Menomonee Falls Club: Received by: Cathy Sharkey, President 11-12

> Monona Grove Club: Received by Maureen Crombie, Pres 11-12





Sauk Trails-Madison Club: Received by: Bob Wortinger, Sec/Treas & Mary Schwartz for Jacci See, Pres 11-12

> Madison Downtown Club: Received by Vern Andren, Pres & John Rottier, Treasurer 11-12



"AWARDS for 2011 - 2012"



Builder of Excellence – BOE Award: Recipients: Vern Andren, Dwaine Sievers Maureen Crombie, Bonnie Spindler (Building Edgerton Club (2012))



OI Foundation Award: Recipient: Fred Dorn, OI Foundation Rep, received from Gov. Bonnie

SWIS Milestone Anniversaries:

Monroe Tues	(10 yrs)
Brodhead	(10 yrs)
Janesville Thur	_(15 yrs)
Sauk Trails-Mad	(20 yrs)
Beaver Dam	(30 yrs)
Sun Prairie	(45 yrs)

"SWIS Distinguished District Awards"



SWIS Distinguished Lt. Governor's Awarded to: Maureen Crombie (Zone 5)

& Gary Engelke (Zone 6), Accepted by Michael Olds,







SWIS Distinguished Governor 2011-12 Awarded to: Bonnie Spindler By Judy Boyd, VP Great Plains Region.



SWIS Distinguished Sec/Treasurer Awarded to: Howard Crofoot at Future Platteville Club Meeting.



SWIS 2011 – 2012 was a great year thanks to all these optimists and the 'legacy' they left in their local communities.

Governor 11-12, Bonnie Spindler

"SWIS Special Governor Selected Awards"



Henry Stiner Award: Recipient Cathy Sharkey, Menomonee Falls Club President 2011-12



Special Governor JOOI Award: Recipient: Carole Klopp for JOOI Support of New Technologies JOOI Council, Reporting OI Timely.



SWIS Selected Club Award: Presented to: Brodhead Club Recipient: Marissa Rodriguez



Special Past Gov. Assoc. Award Increasing SWIS Membership from 8/27/2012 – 9/30/2012 by Over 5 members for 11-12 year.

Tri-Star Basketball Update

As we are gearing up for our District Tri-Star event in Mukwonago this Saturday, April 13th (and expecting to host about 160 kids to compete that all coming from local contests held in Southern Wisconsin), we thought we'd share some images from a recent contest that Platteville just ran. In the meantime, thanks to all the local clubs that sponsor this wonderful event – and we look forward to sharing a listing of winners in the next district newsletter. If your club ever wants more info on this contest, contact Joe or Amy at the info below.

Full details on the Platteville contest can be found at: http://www.plattevilleoptimist.org/project_basketball.html

Platteville Optimist Club Sponsors Tri-Star Basketball Contest!



Joe Mundwiler and Amy Soleimani-Mafi, Co-Chairs, SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball

Joe Mundwiler 211 Muirfield Circle, North Prairie, WI 53153

Cell: 414-416-6551

Fax: 262-392-2355 (please call first) Email: <u>jimundwiler@centurylink.net</u>

Amy Soleimani-Mafi

6501 West Greenfield Avenue #411, West Allis, WI 53214

Cell: 608-436-1815

Email: Amy.soleimani@gmail.com



District Oratorical Contest

Topic: "Why My Voice is Important" 2012-2013



Saturday, May 11, 2013 8:30 a.m. – Noon Kalahari Resort & Conference Center Lake Delton, WI

From all across the SWIS District, many clubs had Oratorical Contests with their winners advancing to Zone Contests. Each Zone will then send their top two winners to the District Conference. At the 3rd Quarter District Contest, we will hear the speeches of these winning contestants to determine who will be the top three District winners. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners receive a \$2,500, \$1,500 & \$1,000 college scholarship along with a large wooden plaque to be engraved with their names! All contestants will be recognized at the Saturday luncheon and receive personalized, framed certificates along with special Oratorical lapel pins. At the luncheon, we will hear the top three contestants recite their speeches for the third time!

We are looking forward to a great District Contest for the contestants and their families! So, it is important that the Club oratorical chairperson (working with the Lt. Governor) submit the following information for the winning contestants of each Zone to me no later than **Monday, April 22nd**. The complete pre-registration information must be received on-time in order for the winners to qualify and compete in the District Contest.

- 1. Winner's Official District Entry Form (signed)
- 2. Copy of winner's birth certificate
- 3. Copy of winner's speech (word processed, double-spaced)

A copy of the Official District Entry Form can be found at www.optimist.org. Click on Members > Programs > Planning Guides > Oratorical and you are there. Final instructions will be available at the Conference Registration table on Friday.

I'm sure the Contestants arriving Friday will have fun "unwinding" by playing in the indoor waterpark, amusement park and large arcade! Stay tuned for details on a special pizza party on Friday night. Looking forward to listening to the kids in the Dells!

Jim Costanzo District Chairperson

5619 Cobblestone Lane Waunakee, WI 53597 Home phone: 608.849.7747 E-mail: jvito@chorus.net



Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)



Topic: "Why My Voice is Important" or "Why My Opinion is Important"

Who: The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Québec and grade 13 in the Caribbean, who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean. Students must submit the results of an audiogram completed no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest by a qualified audiologist. Students must be certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more, which must be supported by the audiogram in order to be eligible to compete.

How To Enter: Interested students should contact their local Optimist Club. To find out the contact in your area, please e-mail the Programs department at programs@optimist.org.

When:

Students

The deadline to enter is determined by the sponsoring Club.

Clubs and Districts

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winner to the next level of competition is set by the District. District deadline to submit a winner to Optimist International is June 15, 2013.

For an application with contest rules visit: http://www.optimist.org/Form/CCDHH RULES PAD-E 12-13.pdf

This contest offers an opportunity for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to present their thoughts in the community - gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offers hearing impaired youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language.

The Optimist International Foundations fund a \$2,500 scholarship to any District that meets the minimum participation criteria. You can view and print planning pages for any International Program by visiting http://www.optimist.org/Documents/CCDHH District Chair 12-13.pdf

CCDHH Co-Chairs: Donna Cairy <u>dlasiowski@charter.net</u> 608-558-5633
Barb Nelson, <u>myhchili@tds.net</u> 608-558-0348

Amy Soleimani-Mafi SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 1 Amy.soleimani@gmail.com

Amidst a busy season of local Tri-Star basketball contests, oratorical contests, essay contests and, of course, local endeavors; clubs in zone one have had a lot going on, as we now look to welcome spring and warmer weather. Here are a few highlights of some of the good things going on in our neck of the woods:

- Menomonee Falls recently teamed up with a local tavern to raise funds for the community and also have their well-known and established annual Distinguished Young Ladies program underway. I also participated in their annual Trivia contest (fundraiser) and am inspired to bring this fun event to my local clubs!
- Metro Milwaukee (MMOC) is preparing for a new member drive ("Optimist Information Night") and have also signed up for two sections of highway in Milwaukee county to beautify the area and continue our mission to support youth and our community. They are also looking to get a "Bird Watching/Nature Walk" event started.
- The Optimist Club of Milwaukee held their first Tri-Star Basketball contest (with support from the MMOC) and along with the Milwaukee Area Young Professionals (MAYPOC), helped out a local Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. I am thrilled to see some of the local clubs supporting each other and getting to know one another.
- Mequon-Thiensville held a successful new membership drive and I was honored to install their local Police Chief as their newest member that same day! They also continue to recognize their international exchange students from the high school one-by-one each month - a program adored by the host parents, students and members!
- Mukwonago is gearing-up to host the District Tri-Star Basketball Invitational this coming weekend and expect about 160 to 180 kids from the SWIS District! This event wouldn't be possible without the support of the numerous local clubs who held their contests, so thanks to all for supporting this great activity!
- Waukesha held their annual swimming event and they continue to draw a great crowd at this, their largest event of their year! I was also delighted to help out with scoring at their recent Tri-Star basketball event.
- West Bend continues to run their annual free throw contest each spring and they look forward to warmer weather, so they can volunteer at their water station for a local race! They also just had a new member added this past week congrats to President Laura on her first recruit of the year.

As we look ahead to the second half of our year, clubs continue to focus on growth in membership, engaging our current membership and personal development. A very happy spring to all!

Warm Regards, Amy Soleimani-Mafi Lt. Governor - Zone 1

Maureen Crombie SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 5

Maureen.crombie@wpsic.com

Zone 5 has been busy reaching out to youth and their communities.

- The Edgerton Optimist Club is off to a great start. Recently, they held a Culvers night and made \$305.00 in four hours! They are also planning a kite mania day the first Saturday in June. The Edgerton club also has plans to have summer movie events, game nights and to march in the Heritage Day parade in July. Their main focus is recruiting new members and hosting small events.
- The Madison Downtown Optimist Club recently hosted their annual youth appreciation luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel. The area Optimist clubs included Downtown Madison, East Madison/Monona, Fitchburg, Madison Breakfast, McFarland, Monona Grove, Stoughton, Verona, Waunakee, Cross Plains, Madison Sauk Trails, Middleton, Mt. Horeb, Sun Prairie, and UW-Madison.
- The Monona Optimist and Cottage Grove clubs have been busy with co-sponsoring their local Tri-Star basketball event. It was a successful event, with a little over 50 children that participated.
- It has been a tough year for the **East** Madison/Monona Optimist Club as they had four current and one former member pass on. All five were active members and involved in the community. Dick Gregory joined the club in 2002 and served as President for the 2008/09 year. Keith Goodwin joined the club in 1966. Keith was tremendously optimistic in his outlook and was a regular attender. Don Huibregtse became a member in 1968 and sponsored more members than anyone since their founding in 1953. Dr. Hennen rejoined the club in 2003 (he had been a member in the 50s and 0s). Dr. Hennen served as their second president n 1954-55. Dr. George Vogt was the 2nd longest term member of the club and was a member since 1958. George was a loyal Optimist for more than 55 years.

Respectively, Maureen Crombie Lt. Governor - Zone 5

Easter Bunny makes his (or was it her?) way around Cambridge By Tristan McGough Hometown News Correspondent



CAMBRIDGE, WI. The Easter Bunny was spotted at a number of different places around the Village of Cambridge on Saturday, March 23, 2013. First, no doubt smelling the eggs frying at the recently re-opened Burgundy Restaurant, the Easter Bunny met, posed and played with the kids who enjoyed their Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. From 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., the Easter Bunny caroused with local patrons at the Burgundy, taking time out to make a round or two in the Bonnet Parade along Main Street up to Veterans' Park and back.

Then it was on to the Cambridge Optimist Club's Annual Easter Egg Hunt that was taking place at Nikolay Middle School at 1 o'clock, which was an alternative place and at an alternate hour, rather than 12 noon at Lake Ripley Park, as had traditionally been done in the past. However, when the weather dictates, the event is moved indoors for the benefit of participants and parents alike.

Anxious and well-stirred kids – many of them seasoned veterans of past egg hunts – were on-hand and well aware of the change of time and place. They waited the

best they could, with festive camaraderie and youthful humor. The Easter Bunny communicated with his (or her?) speechless but understandable nods, bounces and waves, acting more like a Pied Piper of Cambridge than some anemic comicbook character needing to be colored in. The bunny – everyone wondering if the fresh step in the new gait was that of boy or girl – had a mesmerizing, attractive effect on most of the children. The broad bunny smile and happy hands-a-wavin' probably had something to do with all that.

Many people started gathering just outside the middle school new gym in the lobby about 12:30 p.m., some wondering if they had made it on time. The Optimists had been announcing for two weeks by way of local posters and flyers, e-mails and websites that families should meet at the new gym in the middle school, with doors opening at 12:30 p.m., hunt at 1 p.m. It seemed that most people got the word, especially in light of the fact that they actively looked for when this well-known local event would be held, since it was a seasonal timemark that helped the community set its annual social calendar. In fact, the turn-

out was outstanding, remarkable in the fact that

there was only standing room as the contestants, some four and under, took to their assigned areas for pre-flight preparation.



And sure enough, each of the three areas – 4 and under, 5 and 6, and 7 and up – were colorful sugarscapes of assorted candies and wrapped chocolates, plastic eggs containing novelty items, small toys and stuffed bunnies. Hunters were gathered off to one side of their respective area and corralled there until, duly and intentionally wound tight with anticipation, they were released with an explosive frenzy that, typically, characterizes any kind of gold-rush.

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One stood amazed to watch these fields strewn full with Easter candies and goodies mown down like grass under a summer sun. Maybe more like piranhas eating their way upstream would be a more depictive, though less recognized, metaphor. Regardless, with ruthless efficiency, the floors were swept free of all candy, yeah, unto every morsel.

Then it was onto the raffle. There were raffle prizes consisting of 1st and 2nd Place Easter Baskets for boys and girls divisions. Each basket was an assortment of toys, games, candies and other materials that would provide many hours of entertainment and fun with others.

It was hard to estimate the number of people who attended this year's Optimist Egg Hunt, especially when trying to compare these estimations with outdoors event populations from the past; however, kids and parents were still flying into the lobby as the moment to start drew nigh, the starting gates held shoulder against shoulder, and the parking lot in the back was packed. Above and beyond all that, the many kids who attended had themselves a great time and more than a few parents were seen joining in the laughter of the festivities.







The Awards Hotline is here!

The numbers are in and the awards have been determined for the 2011-2012 Optimist year (last year)! To view the Awards Hotline for 2011-2012, please click here:

http://www.optimist.org/hotline/Hotline-Awards2011-2012/index.html

You can also go to the Publications page of the Optimist website and select "Awards Hotline 2011-2012."

Congratulations to everyone who made the list!







SWIS District Junior Golf Qualifier

The SWIS District Optimist Junior Golf qualifier is set for June 24, 2013 at North Shore Country Club in Mequon, WI. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. North Shore Country Club is a private golf course that offers a pristine setting that will challenge any type of golfer from its lightning fast greens to strategically placed bunkers. This competition is open to boys and girls ages 10-18. Competitors will play against kids of their same gender in specified age brackets. If the winner shoots a qualifying score or better, they will then have an opportunity to play in the International event held in late July in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. This event draws kids from all over the world. Last year 31 countries were represented at this event. To get information about this event, please visit the Optimist International website, http://www.optimist.org/GolfersMenu.cfm. You will be able to search on our district to get an entry form. The entry fee is set at \$70 per golfer. It is very important that every golfer needs to bring a birth certificate or driver's license as a proof of age on the day of the event. Any help that your club can give us in promoting this event within your community is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the Junior Golf Co-Chairs, Todd Paulus or Tom Carls.

Todd Paulus tpaulus@wi.rr.com (c) 414-719-0009 Tom Carls wmtomc@gmail.com (c) 262-909-6124



Official District Qualifying Tournament for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships **ENTRY FORM**

TOURN	AMENT INFORM	MATION						
Location Division Entry Fe	s Offered: ee: ation Deadline:	SOUTHERN W 6/24/2013 North Shore Co Boys 10-11, Bo \$70 6/17/2013 Tom Carls Todd Paulus	untry Club (Mequo bys 12-13, Boys 14- wmtomc@gmail tpaulus@wi.rr.c	15, Boys 16-18, com 262-9	Girls 10-12, G 109-6124 119-0009	irls 13-14, Girls	s 15-18	
Pre-qua	lifying requireme	nts: None						
Notes:	fee may not be p	ossible if this occurs		made to get the to	ournament in tha	at day, even if a	of all or a portion of the of shortened event is necestated date.	
A limit maxim partici interna	ium of one (1) golf pation will not elimational championsh	er from outside the linate a District residings. The amount of	District is permitted to lent from qualifying. (qualify per division Optimist Districts a vided and the age	on. If a golfer wi and Clubs provid divisions covere	no lives outside le financial supp ed varies by Dis	e minimum qualifying sco of the District qualifies, l ort for winners to attend rict. There is no guaran Chair for details.	his/her I the
In ord	graduate to be eli	golfer must not turn gible. Any golfer wi	ho has attended colle	ge is no longer co	nsidered a "juni	or golfer" and is	ol or must be a 2013 hig not eligible to participate	jh ∋.
			cut an	d return this section	on			
			YPE OR PRINT L		lay (cannot turn	19 on or before	8/4/2013):	
Address	<u> </u>			City,	State, Zip:			
Parent(s) Name(s):		3	Home	Phone:			
Parent V	/ork/Cell Phone:	<u> </u>	ere mere k en e	E-ma	il:			
Division 2013 (fo.	Applying For—det Boys 16-18 and (ermined by golfer's Girls 15-18 divisions	age on July 29, 2013).	(for Boys 10-11, 1	12-13, 14-15 and	d Girls 10-12, 13	3-14 divisions) and Augu	st 4,
	Circle one: B	oys 10-11 Boys	12-13 Boys 14-15	Boys 16-18	Girls 10-12	Girls 13-14	Girls 15-18	
	R STATEMEN hat I am an amate	5 T-1	to the rules of the US	GA and that all of	the information	furnished is true	to the best of my know	ledge.
Golfer's	Signature:					Date:		
			e Optimist Junior Gol while he/she is particip		ment, I hereby i	release the spor	sor from any and all liab	oility
Segment participa photogra likeness,	tion in a junior golf ph and otherwise u	tournament known use in all media throu	as the "Optimist Junio ughout the world my o	r Golf Program", h	ereby grant the in the Optimist	Optimist Junior Junior Golf Prog	onsideration of your child Golf Program the right t ram and use my child's i ame as an endorsement	o name,

RETURN INFORMATION

Parent's Signature:_

Registration deadline is 6/17/2013. Please complete this form in its entirety, enclose a check for \$70 payable to "Menomonee Falis Optimist Club" (do not send cash). Return to:

Date:

SWIS District Childhood Cancer Campaign

The SWIS District CCC presented a donation of \$10,000 along with an additional gift of \$5,000 from the Madison West Optimist Club. These gifts were then matched by a matching fund campaign the American Family Children's Hospital had in-place. Our gift was able to satisfy the hospital's goal of raising a collective \$2,000,000 for a major addition to the hospital. The people in the photo presenting the check are John Litscher, Chairperson of the SWIS District Childhood Cancer Campaign and he is presenting the check to Thomas M. Young, the Development Program Director for the hospital. Dwaine Sievers, Past International President of Optimist International was also there for the presentation. The SWIS CCC will



be recognized for this gift with a special name plate outside the "family room" we helped make possible. Optimist International has raised over \$1,500,000 for research to find a cure for Childhood Cancer. A special thank you goes out to all the Optimist Clubs who donated toward this gift to help make it possible.

John Litscher

Childhood Cancer Campaign Chairperson



Hi Optimist Clubs,

Here is the list of Skateboard Competition Dates that Kevin and I will be able to assist you with, if you would like to hold a Sk8 Competition this year. The dates are first come, first served, so get your choice in as quickly as possible. We would like to have all dates locked in by April 15th (or before) by a Sponsoring Club. If one of these dates do not work for your club, please contact Kevin or I and we can see what we can do to accommodate you. Your club is also welcome to have a Comp on a different date that Kevin & I would not physically be able to assist at, but still be a part of the District Series.

**Deadlines for Clubs:

April 1st – Start contacting Sponsors

April 15th – Lock in Sponsoring Clubs

May 11th – Participating Clubs meeting at 3rd Qtrly Conference

May to Sept - Get Sponsorships for Individual Comps and the District Comp.

May – Flyer distributed to the Sponsoring Clubs for advertisement

May - Website updated http://ddoptimist.wordpress.com/sk8board-competition-series/

Need to have Clubs mail \$200 for the cost of prizes for your local competition by May 11^{th} Please contact us for any questions.

<u>Dates</u> (rain date is always the following day - Sunday)

June 29th (Open) July 13th (Open) July 20th (Open)

August 10th - Beloit August 24th (Open) September 15th - Delavan

Oct TBA - District Competition

- •Need all participating clubs to have 1-2 members to help
- •Clubs to pay \$30/each participant w/ District Entry Form submitted to chair by Oct 1st



2013 Football Frenzy News

During the 2012 Football Frenzy Sweepstakes that ended recently, it is my pleasure to report that our SWIS District had a great year in helping clubs with their fundraising efforts. In looking at the following list, you can see that 4182 tickets were sold by 44 clubs. That comes to an average of 95 tickets for each club that participated. Due to the amount of tickets sold, the sweepstakes was able to return \$11.00 back to each club for each ticket sold. The total that each club would have received back for their sales as shown above would equate to over \$1,000.00 for each club treasury for tickets sold. This amounts to an easy fundraising project that doesn't have to depend on the weather, etc. - and an inventory that will not spoil or have to be stored. Any tickets that your club does not sell can be returned, unsold, at the end of the selling season with no overhead to your club. One club sold 317 tickets last year for a commission of \$3,487.00, and many clubs sold in the neighborhood of 100 to 150 tickets. In that range, it averaged around \$1,400.00 in commission. This is a great way to raise funds for your service projects and help the kids in your community with a lot less effort than working a weekend in 95 degree weather that could be rained out. No rainouts with the sweepstakes!

Please look over this list, and if you find a mistake, please contact Fred Dorn and make sure that I get the correction before April 20th. Please make sure that your club has a member in attendance at the Conference in the Dells to pick-up your packet of tickets. If the number of tickets shown for your club should be changed, please let me know what the number should be and I will make the correction so your club will get the amount of tickets that you feel you can sell.

If your club would like to know more about how the Sweepstakes works, please schedule me to meet with your club at your membership meeting. My phone number is 608-849-5290.

Looking forward to working with your club again this upcoming NFL Football season.

Fred Dorn Sweepstakes Chair

	EVIOT VOLDAIT TOTILY CONTROLS	Sold 20 24
Saraboo	Michael Hayes - maehayes@centurytel.net	101
Seaver Dam	Jerry Breuer - jabreuer1@hotmail.com	242
Beloit Breakfast	Mark Glynn - mglynn46@att.net	90
Brodhead	Gloria Sutter - gsutter@hughesnet.net	0
Burlington	Michael Schweiger	-
Cambridge	Tristan McGough - tristanmcgough@gmail.com	32
Cottage Grove	Joe Peterson - jpeterson@waunakeepd.org	141
ross Plains	Joanne Ganske - jganske@wagnerinsurance.net	72
Darlington	Tom Daly - tdaly@firstbankingcenter.com	1
elavan-Darien	Sheila Van Dan - grammybear48@yahoo.com	97
ast Madison Monona	Brian Alme - 6125alme@yahoo.com	0
dgerton	Mark Christenson - edge.collect/bles@gmail.com	0
ennimore	Jim Hestad - hestadj@tds.net	39
tchburg	Bob Peterson - petersonb@charter.net	55
ort Atkinson	Michael Maler - michael.maier@rainbowhospicecare.o	100
anesville Thursday	Becky Weber-Johnson - wjbecky@gmail.com	114
lanesville Tuesday	Graham Smith - gls@charter.net	317
lanesville Wednesday	Cindy Miser - cmiser@senecafoods.com	167
Jefferson	Tiffany Schmidt	0
Kenosha Noon	Molly Krause - mkrause@southportbank.com	58
aCrosse Breakfast	Don Rudolph - doonloos@aol.com	66
ake Mills	Dave Wendt - wendtins@verizon.net	120
odi	Al Bilse - Bilses2@gmail.com	100
Medison Breakfast	Dick Anderson -	109
Madison Downtown	Judy Coleman - jac.madtown@charter.net	75
Madison Northeast	Jesse Shields - jshields@mge.com	0
Mazo-Wi Heights	Joanne Ganske - jganske@wagnerinsurance.net	183
McFarland	Ken Anderson - andpumpkins@hotmail.com	23
Menomonee Falls	Larry Hebring - ljhebbring@boblanier.com	308
Meguon-Thiensville	Tom Frank - tlfranksr@hotmail.com	164
Middleton	Joe Morgan -	180
Milton	Jan Bue Wells - onthego@ticon.net	0
Milw Yng Professionals	Cory Ann St. Marie Carls - coryann.stmo@gmail.com	35
Milwaukee	Cory Ann St. Marie Carls - coryann.stmc@gmail.com	0
Milwaukee Metro	Cory Ann St Marie - coryann.stmc@gmail.com	20
Monona Grove	Maureen Crombie - maureen.crombie@wpsic.com	70
Monroe Breakfast	Paul Nelson - paulmarennelson@tds.net	0
	Donna Mandel - woodfordbank@tds.net	44
Monroe Tuesday	Charlie Jefko - charlie@jefko.com	84
Mount Horeb	Lowell Nuesse - Inuesse@citizenbank.com	0
Mukwonago	Sherry Hill - ssmmhil@juno.com	130
Oregon		1 0
Platteville	Gary Engelke - engelkeg@plattevillerealty.net Christine Sterlie - sterlie drchris@centurytel.net	0
Platteville Area	Rusty Scheiber - rischieb@brakebush.com	164
Portage States	Betty Miller - betrac@core.com	30
Racine Friday		106
Racine Tuesday	Kingshields1@yahoo.com Bob Balow - balowb@tds.net	60
Racine Wednesday	Sue Dohm - sue.dohm@hotmail.com	38
Sauk Prairie	Gene Spindler - genespindler@charter.net	38
Sauk Trails		1
Stoughton	Lynn Miler - Imiller@isadex.com	1
Sun Prairie	Sue Olson - sueolson14@gmail.com	1
UW LaCrosse Student	Don Rudolph - doonloos@aol.com	1
Verona	Jon Finseth - instar@tds.net	_
Waukesha	Andrew LaVol - lavolins@yahoo.com	121
Waunakee	Fred Dorn - fdorn@chorus.net	125
West Bend	Geri O'Brien - ogeri@att.net	75
Whitewater Community	Connie Murray - murrayc@uww.edu	20
Whitewater Student	Kim Adams - adamsk@uww.edu Doug Poole - dougmarypoole@gmail.com	135



Join Us for Optimist Day at Miller Park! Saturday, August 17th Brewers take on the Reds 6:10 p.m.

The Milwaukee Metro Optimist Club and the Racine Optimist Club are joining forces to organize an Optimist Day at Miller Park! If you attended the 1st Optimist Day two years ago, you know it is FUN!

Open to All Optimists, as well as friends and family! Everyone is invited to the Brewer game and Tailgate party on Saturday, August 17th at Miller Park (6:10 p.m. game - tailgate party begins at 4:30 p.m. - the Brewers are taking on the Cincinnati Reds).

Invite a potential "Future Optimist!" The more the merrier!

A limited amount of tickets at the **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT RATE** have been reserved for us, so please make sure that you get your Optimist at Miller Park Tickets for this special day - deadline is May 11th.

Optimist Day at Miller Park tickets include game & tailgate for \$28 (this is the discounted price-see below). Payment can be made in 1 of 2 ways (Pay Pal or by Check):

PAYPAL

Send to: hdmetal1903@gmail.com

**Within Paypal, specify you are sending money on behalf of family for friends.

CHECK - send your check to:

Jo'El Pearlman 528 76th Street Franksville, WI 53126

**You will receive your confirmation within 24 hours of receipt by phone or email (Please specify preferred method & provide your contact info)

If your Club would like to go, but would like transportation to be provided for an extra fee, please let us know so we can coordinate that for you.

***Register & Pay for Optimist Day at Miller park by May 11th and you will receive a special Brewers gift and be entered to win a Super Brewer's Prize Pack, including tickets and more!

Go Brewers Go!