



SWIS 2012 - 2013 Newsletter



Volume 16, Issue 2

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Governor Larry's Message Well, it's that wonderful time of year again as we transition through the Christmas season and get started on the New Year. I hope all of you had the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate this special time with family and friends. Across the SWIS District, fellowship was spread through numerous Holiday projects to support kids and the things that make them happy. My gratitude to all of you who had the opportunity to participate.



You'll find out more about some of these activities in this newsletter. Maybe you'll get some ideas that might inspire you and your Club for next year's season. The very mission of Optimism means that we do some of our best work throughout the Holidays. Hope you all had fun in your efforts to make a difference.

Our 2nd Conference of the year will be Feb 1&2 at the American Center Holiday Inn just east of I-94 between Madison and Sun Prairie at the Hwy 151 exit. We haven't been to this hotel before, but I think you'll like it. One of the reasons for its selection is convenience. Unless the weather gives us problems, the hotel is easily accessible to all of us throughout the District. Begin making plans to be there. Who should attend--Club officers and board members top the list, including committee chairs of Club activities like membership, essay, oratorical and basketball, to name a few. The info provided, training offered and fellowship experienced is just the best way to move your Club forward. We hear positive comments time and time again by those who attend. At-large members are also encouraged to attend, especially those who are considering leadership positions. Everyone can walk away with a positive experience--the MORE the MERRIER.

Next, how are we doing with membership? We've had some losses and we've registered some gains. Most Clubs are making an effort with Membership Chairs and recruiting objectives. If your Club hasn't taken these steps yet now's the time to get busy. Solid results can only be achieved by planning for them. Remember, we can only be true to our Optimist mission of "bringing out the best in kids" by continuing to grow in order to meet the mounting challenges we face. Don't forget the comment, "I want to be part of a group that does good things in the community." Sell that message and you will grow!

Another important endeavor not to be overlooked is the support needed to produce a worthy newsletter like this. It's driven by your articles and reports of what good things are being accomplished at the Club level. Be proud of what you do and share it with all of us. New ideas and their success stories can be really motivating and fun to hear. At the upcoming Feb Conference, we're going to report on some of our special annual projects like the essay, oratorical and basketball activities mentioned above, along with several other things important to us. Make sure your respective Chairmen are there to get the details, first hand.

Finally, let me share with you a few of the highlights from our joint Conference in November with the WINUM District, our Optimist partners to the north. The Heidel House in Green Lake turned out to be the perfect fit for our 1st Conference together in 20 years. Our special guest trainers included our Regional Vice President Debora Ettleman, who drove from Billings, MT and Dr. Mike Allen, who joined us from Omaha, NE.

Mike was the Conference Chair of the Optimist International Convention in Milwaukee last summer. We started with Friday night hospitality, SWIS District being the hosts for the evening. Saturday was busy all day, beginning with an OI Convention review and a history lesson on SWIS/WINUM from our past Gov, Jim Kondrasuk. We then met with our respective Districts to take care of needed business. Our morning concluded with a Key Note presentation on OI Liability Insurance by Gail Farrett from the Marsh Affinity Group, Chicago office. Lunch followed with Mike Allen sharing thoughts on membership and being an Optimist--entertaining and informative. Training workshops dotted the afternoon with topics such as the OI Foundation, membership, new club building, personal growth, presidents and secretary/ treasurer training. We also covered our projects like essay/oratorical. Needless to say, there was something for everyone. WINUM hosted the evening event with dinner, games and a Halloween Costume Party. What a great Optimist weekend.

We look for more of the same involvement in February with our trainers, Jim and Judy Boyd, coming from Iowa, along with our Club/Individual recognition for the last Optimist year conducted by Immediate Past Governor Bonnie Spindler. This will be a very special day that you won't want to miss. Make plans and I'll see you at the Holiday Inn. Hope you all enjoyed the Holidays and let's move full speed into the New Year. The kids are counting on us. Thanks for all you do.

Governor 2012-13 **Larry Barbera**



**Optimist International
President 2012-13,
J. C. ST-ONGE**



**Optimist International Vice
President Great Plains
Region 2012-13,
DEBORA ETTLEMAN**

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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Bonnie Spindler, Editor

Future SWIS Articles, e-mail to degroot.eric80@gmail.com by April 1, 2013.

**Future Editor:
Brock Sarnstrom,
hdmatal1903@gmail.com**

**Future Newsletter Project
Coordination by Eric/Brock.**

**Thanks to Joan Kenney for 3
years as newsletter editor.**



SWIS 2nd Quarter Conference
February 1-2nd, 2013
American Center Holiday Inn
5109 W. Terrace Inn
Madison, WI 53718
1-888-465-4329



**Optimist International Past VP
of Great Plains Region 2011-12,
JUDY BOYD**



**Optimist International VP Elect of
Great Plains Region for 2013-14,
JIM BOYD**

For the SWIS District:

I am honored to be able to come be a part of the SWIS District activities once again. I have GREAT admiration for your Immediate Past Governor, Bonnie, and am excited to be with her as she presents recognition and awards to you as individuals and clubs. It is because of your diligence and hard work that you will be recognized for your GREAT achievements! The biggest honor for me as a Past Vice President, however, will be to present Bonnie with her Distinguished Governor's ring. Bonnie shares that distinction with four other Governors from our GREAT Plains region - a feat that no other region accomplished. Congratulations to all SWIS Optimists – you are GREAT!
Judy Boyd

Friday, February 1st, 2013:

Executive Board Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Dinner will be on-your-own. Hospitality Room available at 8:00 PM for everyone.

Saturday, February 2nd, 2013:

1. Jim and Judy Boyd, long time Optimists and friends from Iowa, will be with us to help with morning training. They'll speak at lunch regarding "Living a Life of Optimism" and they'll help Immediate Past Governor Bonnie with the afternoon awards ceremony.
2. Morning training will feature Leadership Development, Membership Strategies and New Club Building Ideas. We'll also begin a series of Creed Reflections that will continue into our next 2 Conferences.
3. The afternoon will lead off with a number of key committee reports. Get the info you need and your questions answered on such important topics as Essay and Oratorical contests and Tri-Star basketball plus so much more.
4. Finally, we move into the award program recognizing the effort and accomplishment of individuals and Clubs throughout the last Optimist year. Immediate Past Governor Bonnie promises some fun surprises. We'll windup with some refreshments before heading home. More information is available on the www.swisdistrict.org website.

Developing Future Leaders: Why should I think about maybe becoming Governor (or Club President or Lt. Governor)? What if I don't have time (or don't want to make the time)? What if I just want to do projects in my club and that's all? Why should I step up? Is it important for me, from an Optimist point of view, to do something else?

Let's talk about these questions and others that you may have regarding the Club, the Zone, and even the District. With the help of some of the Past SWIS Governors, we will answer questions that you may have. Even if you have NEVER thought about becoming a Club President or a Lt. Governor or the District Governor because you think there are others out there that are "better" than you, let's talk about that. This session will be one to make you think! **Judy Boyd**

Membership & New Club Building Strategies: What are some of the obstacles in acquiring members and building new clubs? Why do these exist and what can be done about it? Why and how should I step up and increase membership in my club and/or new clubs? Why is this important to me as an optimist?

Let's also talk about these questions and many other challenges you have in 'just asking' and how we can help. This is another session that will make you think about your club the SWIS District and your part in it.
Jim Boyd

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL for SWIS 2011 – 2012 ACHIEVEMENTS

Awarded at SWIS 2nd Qtr Conference, February 2nd, 2013 in Sun Prairie, WI

Bringing Out the Best Banner Awards 2011-2012

CLUB #	ZONE	CLUB NAME
09145	2	RACINE, WI
09190	2	RACINE-TUESDAY, WI
09017	3	BELOIT-BFT, WI
09048	3	DELAVAN-DARIEN-BFT, WI
09072	4	FORT ATKINSON, WI
09019	5	COTTAGE GROVE, WI
09926	6	MONROE-TUESDAY NOON, WI
09935	6	PLATTEVILLE AREA, WI
09005	8	BARABOO, WI
09006	8	BEAVER DAM, WI
09093	8	LODI, WI
09139	8	PORTAGE, WI

'Bringing Out the Best Banner' Patch Award

Banner Patch first year then year bar there after. Criteria:

- 1) *Add at least one member.*
- 2) *Be current on District and OI Dues.*
- 3) *Recognize Club member or local community individual.*

This will be in place for 4 more years.

SWIS HONOR CLUBS 2011-2012

09031	1	METRO MILWAUKEE, WI
09101	1	MEQUON-THIENSVILLE, WI
09110	1	MILWAUKEE, WI
09911	1	MUKWONAGO, WI
09086	2	KENOSHA AREA-NOON, WI
09021	3	JANESVILLE-WEDNESDAY, WI
09134	4	OREGON-BROOKLYN, WI
09172	4	STOUGHTON, WI
09025	5	MADISON-BFT, WI
09117	6	MONROE, WI
09137	6	PLATTEVILLE, WI
09925	6	BRODHEAD, WI
09051	7	CROSS PLAINS, WI
09917	7	MAZOMANIE-WISCONSIN HEIGHTS, WI
09931	7	FITCHBURG, WI
09155	8	SAUK PRAIRIE, WI
09202	8	WAUNAKEE, WI

Honor Club Awards:

Banner patch, year bar with Club President's name/year and \$100 credit on January 2013 dues billing. Criteria:

- 1) *Sponsor at least three service projects a year.*
- 2) *Recognize a Club or community member.*
- 3) *Grow Club by Net plus 1*
- 4) *Be current on District and OI dues.*

Each of these clubs will also receive the "Bringing Out the Best Banner" Patch Award.

This will be in place for 4 more years.

SWIS DISTINGUISHED CLUBS 2011-2012

09103	1	MENOMONEE FALLS, WI
09095	5	MADISON, WI
09118	5	MONONA GROVE, WI
09083	7	MADISON-SAUK TRAILS, WI

Distinguished Club Awards:

Watch for club President, secretary and/or treasurer. Banner patch with Club President's name/year and \$250 credit on January 2013 dues billing. Criteria:

- 1) *Meet honor Club Criteria plus.*
- 2) *Net of 15 OR Charter a New Club.*

Each club will also receive 'Bringing Out Best Banner Patch. This will be in place for 4 years.

MORE AWARDS CONTINUED on NEXT PAGE

Builder of Excellence Awards: This is given to 4 optimists who were directly involved with building the Edgerton Club which was chartered on August 28, 2012. They are:

Vern Andren, Maureen Crombie, Dwaine Sievers, Bonnie Spindler.

District Recognition Awards will also be given:

Distinguished Lt. Governor's:

Criteria: All Clubs in Zone are Honor Clubs OR Net plus one in membership and charter one new Club
Maureen Crombie (Zone 5) and Gary Engelke (Zone 6) will each receive a desk clock.

Distinguished SWIS District Secretary Treasurer:

Criteria: Be current on District and OI dues (all financial obligations paid and/or submitted by September 30)
 All reports filed with Optimist International in a timely manner
 Grow District by net plus 1 in membership. District to build at least one new Club
Howard Crofoot, will receive a **Bringing Out The Best In Kids" logo folder with ink pen.**

Distinguished SWIS District Governor:

Criteria: Grow District by net plus 1 in membership
 District to build at least one new Club
 All Clubs are current on District and OI dues (all financial obligations paid by September 30)
 All reports filed with Optimist International in a timely manner.
Bonnie Spindler will receive a **Governor's Ring plus a District banner patch with Gov's name and year.**

SWIS Henry Stiner Award: This award is an annual award chosen and given by the Governor for the Optimist Year to an optimist who 'embodies the spirit of optimism in his/her life, club, and community. That optimist will be announced and received a Plaque at the conference.

Special Governor's Club Award: This award is an annual award chosen and given by the Governor for the Optimist Year to a club that exemplifies the spirit of optimism in its club, community, and in spirit.

Special Banner Patches for SWIS Milestone Anniversaries in 2011-12: Monroe Tuesday (10 years); Brodhead (10 Years); Janesville Noon (15 years); Sauk Trails – Madison (20 years); Beaver Dam (30 years); and Sun Prairie (45 years).

Other Certificates and Awards given by Governor Bonnie Spindler for 2011-12 on Feb. 2, 2013.

Following the Awards Ceremony, refreshments will be served for everyone at the conference in celebration of a great 2011-2012 year

2011 – 2012 SWIS Audit Complete

Thanks to the Financial Review Audit Team, of Bob Wortinger, Retired CPA and Chair, Vern Andren, Sue Kranz and John Wyttenbach, the Audit has been completed. Thanks also to SWIS Sec/Treasurer Howard Crofoot for his very punctual and well-done SWIS Financial updates during the year.

The Team has reviewed the books as of September 30, 2012. Everything reviewed was found to be handled properly and in line with the budget for the 2011-12 year. The Financial Review Letter and other documents were forwarded to Optimist International on December 30, 2012.



2011-2012 was a great year for the many kids that were served in the communities by optimists in the **59 SWIS Clubs.** **THANKS** so much to everyone that spread their optimism to the kids in their areas. Also, thanks so much to everyone for their support of me as Governor in the last year. It was a very rewarding experience and I appreciate all the enthusiasm and 'fun' that we had together in the year. **Bonnie Spindler**



Start planning now to attend the
95th Optimist International Convention in 2013
Cincinnati, Ohio,
July 4-6, 2013 - Thursday through Saturday

Early Bird Registration by May 1, 2013

Advance Registration by May 31, 2013

The International Convention events will take place at the:

**Duke Energy Convention Center
525 Elm Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**

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 Walkable Cities in the US. 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 3 and July 7. 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 US Bank Arena are close by, including some of 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 Fifth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**

Connected via skywalk to a number of shops and restaurants and just a 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 **OIA** to ensure you receive the group rate. Online: visit www.cincinnatietherlandplaza.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>

Bonnie Spindler, OI Ambassador 2012-13

SWIS 2012 – 2013 ZONES

For the future!



SWIS Zone 1 Amy Soleimani-Mafi		SWIS Zone 2 Jo'El Pearlman	
Club #	Club Name	Club #	Club Name
09031	Milwaukee Metro	09053	Burlington
09101	Meg/Thiensville	09071	Racine Friday
09110	Milwaukee	09145	Racine
09103	Menomonee Falls	09190	Racine Tuesday
09200	Waukesha	09086	Kenosha
09208	West Bend		
09911	Mukwonago		
09037	Milw Young Professionals		
SWIS Zone 3 Joleen Austin		SWIS Zone 4 Richard Zentner	
09017	Beloit Breakfast	09024	Jefferson
09021	Janesville Wednesday	09036	Cambridge
09022	Janesville Breakfast	09072	Ft. Atkinson
09028	Milton	09134	Oregon
09048	Delavan/Darien	09172	Stoughton
09910	UW-Whitewater (students)	09092	Lake Mills
09915	Janesville Noon	09183	Sun Prairie
09230	UW-Whitewater/Community		
SWIS Zone 5 Maureen Crombie		SWIS Zone 6 Paul Nelson	
09025	Madison Breakfast	09137	Platteville
09050	East Madison, Monona	09096	LaCrosse BFT
09095	Madison Downtown	09035	Platteville Area
09125	Madison Northeast	09934	Fennimore
09091	McFarland	09026	Darlington
09010	Cottage Grove	09025	Brodhead
09118	Monona Grove	09929	Dodgeville
09039	Edgerton Club (August 2012)	09117	Monroe
		09038	LaCrosse Students (March 2012)
		09925	Monroe Tuesday
SWIS Zone 7 Rochelle Robkin		SWIS Zone 8 Gerry Guenther	
09051	Cross Plains	09005	Baraboo
09083	Sauk Trails – Madison	09006	Beaver Dam
09105	Middleton	09093	Lodi
09129	Mt. Horeb	09139	Portage
09195	Verona	09155	Sauk Prairie
09917	Mazo/Wisconsin Hgts	09202	Waunakee
09931	Fitchburg		
SWIS Zone 9, JOOI Clubs Carole Klopp			
Whitewater Middle School Junior	Monroe Students of Service		
Mt. Horeb Junior Club	Janesville Joseph Craig-HS		
Monroe Junior Optimist Club	Madison Spartan Youth Srv Team		
Janesville Green Beret JOOI Band	Lake Mills Octagon Club		
Del/Darien Comet Junior Club	McFarland Youth Center		
Whitewater High School Club	Kenosha Tremper Octagon		
Racine Junior Optimist Club (March 2012)			

SWIS Membership Update

The SWIS District membership for the end of the 1st quarter is 1936 members across our 59 clubs. We are down 61 members for the year, which amounts to 2,135 kids in our communities that won't be served this year as compared to last. Let's work hard together in our own areas and across the state to bring these numbers back up and serve some more children. They are the future and need our help with so many beneficial programs being cut from our local schools to due cost cutting measures. The Optimist Clubs need to be there to pick up the slack.

I want to quickly thank the Clubs in **Mequon/Thiensville, Jefferson, Whitewater, Stoughton, Platteville area, Mazomanie-Wisconsin Heights, Lodi and Portage** for adding new members and increasing the levels of support to the kids in their communities. Please join me in congratulating them and try for some new members in your own areas of the state.

**SWIS Membership Chair,
Josh Zaidel:**



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

A few activities to highlight from our area during this holiday season:

- **Menomonee Falls** recently held their 2nd Annual Optimist Club Holiday Drop & Shop to let parents get out shopping while entertaining the kids!
- The Optimist Club of **Milwaukee** helped with their Breakfast with Santa at a local community center, where they ran a booth with crafts and helped 195 children write letters to Santa! From their, **MAYPOC & MMOC** assisted Milwaukee with efforts to send response letters from Santa. The **MMOC** will also serve hot chocolate and entertain students and parents at a (rescheduled) holiday open house at a local elementary school.
- **Mequon-Thiensville** held their annual Christmas Tree & Wreath sales. And, I was very impressed with their efforts around Veteran's Day, as they recognized the members in their club who are veterans!
- **Mukwonago** just wrapped up their local Essay Contest and partnered with a local organization to "weave baskets" which were then donated to the local Food Pantry for the holidays.
- **Waukesha** looks forward to their swimming event this spring and
- **West Bend** continues to recognize a student of the month!

As we look ahead to our second quarter and many set resolutions for 2013; continued growth in membership, engaging our current membership and personal development are goals I would like to highlight in our clubs. By bringing out the best in ourselves, it will set an example for kids and that will then trickle down. So, while we continue to provide excellent service, projects and opportunities to youth and in our communities, please remember to take care of yourselves, too! A healthy, happy and optimistic membership-base will thrive!

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



Jo'El Pearlman
SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 2
eventplanner2000@hotmail.com

The **Racine & Kenosha Student Clubs** participated in a combined Celebration & Membership Hayride & Bonfire at Apple Holler on a chilly October evening. President Sarah (Kenosha) & President David (Racine) & their members toasted marshmallows and discussed ideas on how to help the community.

- The newly formed **Racine Student Club** created a garden last year and enlisted the assistance of children and teachers. The garden helped feed many hungry families!
- The **Kenosha Student Club** (Tremper Octagon Club) visits elderly residents at an area nursing home every month, playing bingo game and providing prizes to the winners. They also participate in all **Kenosha Optimist Events** (Adopting a family for Thanksgiving & Christmas, Just Say No Event, Pizza Bake Off, Respect for Law, Triathlons, etc).

The Mayor of Racine was one of the special guests that visited some of the Clubs in the Zone. He discussed needs for children in the community, specifically-the after school programs. Tutoring, mentoring, spending quality time, and encouraging kids to dream big to achieve is priority..."They need to be encouraged and positively reminded that they can be whatever they want to be when they grow up!" said Mayor, John Dickert. **Racine Tuesday** Optimist Member, Sandra McClaron agreed as she shared how she encourages every child to believe in themselves and their future.

In November, some of the Zone Presidents met to discuss the possibility of combining efforts among the Clubs towards a community project / special community event. One of the ideas discussed was to bringing the Harlem Ambassadors to town as well as a joint fundraiser to help fund their visit.

With the Christmas season approaching, Optimist and Student Clubs stepped up to help ring the bell for the Salvation Army, sorted goods at the food bank, donated food, clothing & toys and wrapped presents for struggling families, children living in shelters and our seniors- who very much appreciate the caring & warm Optimist spirit. (See pictures of Mr & Mrs Santa who are Optimist Dennis Duchene's parents and they partner with Kenosha Optimist Club to make Christmas even Brighter for youth and of Racine Wed. Member Hannah Wosilait sorting food at Racine's Food Bank).

Jo'El Pearlman, Lt. Governor Zone 2

Joleen Austin
SWIS Lt. Gov, Zone 3
kevjoeaustin@peoplepc.com

Zone 3 is going very well. The following clubs have been working on the following.

- Beloit - Just Say NO Pancake Breakfast & donations for Toys for tots, Books for Kids, & Mitten/Hat drive.
- Delavan-Darien – having middle school dances for about 250+ kids.
- Janesville BFT – having a Children’s Christmas Program & Enchantment Forrest w/ Janesville Noon Club
- Janesville NOON - Enchantment Forrest w/ Janesville BFT
- Janesville WED - Ring Bells For Salvation Army & Concessions At The Badger Football Games

Joleen Austin, Lt. Governor Zone 3

Richard Zentner
SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 4
mrzent@hotmail.com

The clubs continue serving kids through the holiday season with many activities and events. There will be many clubs participating in the Oratorical, Essay, and Tri-Star Contests this coming spring.

Thanks to the clubs in Zone 4 who have added members. Everyone is working hard to continue sponsoring members and serve more children.

Maureen Crombie
SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 5
Maureen.crombie@wpsic.com



Each club in zone 5 is so unique and each provides wonderful opportunities for the youth in their communities. The youth in zone 5 are so fortunate to have such dedicated Optimist members.

- The McFarland Optimist club recently participated in their Santa Hotline. They have a direct phone line to the North Pole and arrange a call between a child and old St. Nick himself. All proceeds were donated to the McFarland food pantry.
- The Downtown Optimist club sponsored an all city soccer banquet the end of the year's soccer season.
- The Cottage Grove club has been busy this year. Some of the highlights this year have been participating in a coloring contest for youth at their annual "Christmas in the Grove" event, the giving tree at Taylor Prairie Elementary School in Cottage Grove and working with the Kids Safari daycare with their Breakfast with Santa event.
- The Monona Grove Optimist Club put on their fourth annual Breakfast with Santa Event. This was a collaboration event with the Monona Parks and Recreation department. A little over 400 attended this popular event. This was the most amount of people since this event started. The friends of the Monona Senior Center had arts and crafts for the kids and the ability to purchase handmade Christmas gifts from volunteers. Members of the Monona Grove High School DECA club also volunteered.
- The Madison Breakfast club continues to mentor students while our newest club, the Edgerton Optimist club continues to off to a great start.

The Edgerton Club is primarily working on membership, starting a student of the month, and on 02/13/13 they will have a fundraiser at Culvers. The club receives a percentage of profits on that day.

In addition to events the Downtown, East Madison/Monona and McFarland clubs have been busy working concession stands for Badger and WIAA football games. The money they earn provides services to youth in their communities. My goal is to have more meetings with club Presidents and to encourage and build new members within the clubs.

Optimistically Yours, **Maureen Crombie , Lt.Governor Zone 5**

Paul Nelson
 SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 6
paulmarenelson@tds.net

The membership in zone 6 is down at this time, but I have a feeling this is partially due to college graduations.

- The Fennimore club conducted an Election Day dinner for voters in November.
- The Monroe Noon Club conducted a Christmas event after the Monroe Christmas Parade that featured Christmas crafts, hot cocoa and cookies, and pictures of youth with Santa.
- The Monroe Morning Club assisted the Monroe Women's Club in distributing food baskets to needy families in Monroe. The Monroe Morning Club is also in the planning stages a youth appreciation week in which all 4th and 5th grade students in the Monroe, Juda, Blackhawk and St. Victors schools are provided with free roller skating at the local rink along with pizza and soda. Another event being planned by the Morning club is 'Tri Star Basketball.
- The two Monroe clubs are planning essay and oratorical contests.

Also, I have been busy reminding clubs to file their federal tax form 990 for last year, as well as trying to get all clubs district and international dues paid.

Paul M. Nelson, Lt. Gov. Zone 6
 608/325-3248



For the future!



Brodhead Float 2012

Rochelle Robkin
 SWIS Lt. Gov, Zone 7
robkin@centurytel.net

I am impressed with the activities and involvement of the members of the Zone 7 clubs I have met. The Clubs have absorbed a number of transfer members who seemed very involved right away. The members I met exemplify the spirit of Optimism and a real "Can do , This is fun!" attitude.

- The Optimist Club of Verona held a Christmas party on December 13th .Among the projects the Verona Club supports in the fall are contributions to several community funds, 2 technical school scholarships, a ski team, the Fitchburg Fireflies 4 H Club, A Youth Appreciation Luncheon, Badger Boy's State, and Books for the Stoner Prairie Kindergarten. The club has "inherited" projects from the disbanded West Madison Club: that they will continue: a third Sunday noon meal at the American Family Children's Hospital, a Christmas Day Noon meal served there as well and sponsorship of Cub Scout Pack 801.
- The Sauk Trails Optimist Club also has been supporting the Spartan Youth Service Team – JOOI Club, who has over 200 members. They have also supported a MUM family, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Decorating Christmas Trees for Retirement home, besides the Lussier Center Children's Christmas party (which was an 'inherited' project from the West Madison Club along with the many wonderful optimist transfers.).

I'd love to share their Optimism as I hope to attend meetings of all of the Clubs in my Zone early in the New Year.

Rochelle Robkin, Lt. Gov. Zone 7
rochellerobkin@gmail.com
 1608-3563539 (home)
 1608-393-2317(cell in my pocket)

Gerry Guenther
SWIS Lt. Gov., Zone 8
gnguenther@frontier.com

It's been a good year in District 8. All clubs have seen their membership go up since early October, and all of our clubs have maintained a strong presence in their respective communities through the myriad of programs in which they participate.

Many of the activities that our clubs have instituted over the years have become traditions in their cities: Student of the Month, Optimist Essay Contests, Tri-Star Basketball Tournament, Food Pantry and Santa's Workshops to name just a few. These and others continue to receive solid support from all District 8 clubs.

At the risk of overlooking something, here are a few new developments that deserve emphasis:

- Baraboo has played a significant role (both cash and muscle) in the establishment of a new park on the east edge of town. Prominent signage will inform all that frolic there that the Optimist Club helped make it possible. It's that kind of commitment that people notice and may well be reason that they have picked up 3 new members and a transfer.
- Sauk Prairie continues it's strong presence in the city with ongoing participation in the Food Pantry, Mobile Meals and Optimists Essay and Oratorical contests. Membership and attendance is solid.
- Beaver Dam continues to maintain its strong presence in the community. This year they initiated a book exchange at the summer market. People can bring in a book and exchange it for another. The program was such an instant success that their inventory reached the point where they instituted a 2 for 1 policy.
- Portage extended club support to the Indian Agency House by contributing to their Christmas Youth Program. They are justifiably proud of their support of the Columbia County Teen Court program. For the past two years the club made significant contributions as grant money began to disappear and the program faced elimination. That kind of support pulled it through until this year when the county voted to fully fund it. Oh yes, membership is up by 4 since October 4th.
- Wanakee and Lodi remain strong both in membership and in community outreach.

Optimistically Yours, **Gerry Guenther, Lt. Governor Zone 8**

Carole Klopp
SWIS Lt. Gov. Zone 9
JOOI Clubs
klopp@chorus.net

Re-organizing the JOOI District, with Governor Charles, has presented its unique challenges given the diverse settings of each JOOI group.

However, both Governor Charles and I agree that utilizing technology, something our youth are much more comfortable with, will make a difference - especially as we try to improve inter-club communication. As with any change, it's taking a short while to actualize this new way of meeting and getting the youth used to the new system. However, Governor Charles and I are hopeful that, by the end of January, we'll be underway with the re-organization of the district and the new District JOOI Council.

JOOIfully, **Carole Klopp, Lt. Governor.**
for JOOI, Zone 9



Charles He
JOOI Governor, 2012-2013
charles2he@yahoo.com
Madison Spartan Youth Service
Team High School JOOI Club

The SWIS District JOOI clubs have already started contacting each other, and we plan on meeting via Skype in January. In order to increase district JOOI club participation, we will have regular Skype meetings with representatives from each zone. We will also create a shared service project for our SWIS district. Finally, we will plan for JOOI District Conference, and discuss attending the adult SWIS 3rd Quarter Conference in the Dells, May 11th, 2013.

Charles He, JOOI Governor 12-13

Optimist International Foundation:

Can you spare a dime a day? Most of us spend money thoughtlessly on small things. How many times have you been in line at the checkout and picked up an item you didn't really need? How often have you bought gas, gone inside to pay and walked out with a cup of coffee and a candy bar? Most of us can answer "yes" to the above. Most of us could easily contribute a Dime A Day every year of our membership as Optimists.

A dime a day membership is \$365.00 a year, less than the amount that you would pay for a membership at the golf club. A dime a day is less than a cup of coffee a day. It is less than the cost of a newspaper a day. All of us can contribute a Dime A Day. Our unrestricted gifts help fund the annual Optimist scholarships, which cost around \$282,950.00 every year. They help fund Optimist programs such as JOOI. Dime A Day gifts are important. Let's all start saving our dimes right now!

As the SWIS District Foundation Representative, I am once again asking all SWIS clubs to appoint a Foundation Representative at the club level to work with me at the District level to help raise the amount of funds necessary to continue the work of the OI Foundation.

During the past Optimist year of 2011-2012, there were 59 clubs in the SWIS District. Of those 59 clubs, only 12 clubs donated funds to the Foundation. SWIS District clubs must appoint a Foundation Representative to educate at the club level during meetings about the importance of donating funds to the Foundation. Also, during the past year, 120 members that have donated to the Foundation in the past did not contribute anything to the Foundation. In past newsletters I have asked all clubs to please send me the name of your club Foundation Representative, but only two clubs have done so. Governor Larry has asked me to make sure that all clubs are informed about the importance of Foundation donations. Our district has 2000 members and looking at the donations of members during 2011-2012, only 53 members donated something to the foundation. If the other 1947 members had donated only a dime a day, (\$365.00) our District would have a final donation to the Foundation of \$710,655.00, plus the \$19,345 the other 53 members that donated something added to the \$710 thousand above, the total amount would have been a SWIS District total donation of \$730,000.00. I hope this excites all of you as it does me. Once again, I am asking all clubs to appoint a Foundation Representative immediately, and get the information of that person to me, and at the same time, please put the Foundation donation item into the Minutes of your next Board Meeting, and make a determination as to the amount your club will donate, and bring that check along to the next Conference at the American Center Holiday Inn between Madison and Sun Prairie..

FRED DORN, SWIS DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

ESSAY CONTEST 2013

The time for the OI Essay Contest is upon us. I'm hoping to receive at least 20 essays this year--which would be one more than last year. I've been impressed by the participation level the past two years, but as we know: reaching more kids is always better!

This year's essay topic is "How can I help my friends realize their value?" aka "How can I help my friends know that they are good enough, smart enough, and gosh-darn it: people like them". It's open to all students so long as they were under 19 (significant change for this year) by the end of 2012, had not graduated high school/gotten a GED, have not previously won any Optimist contest, and they can only enter one Optimist contest per year. This means it's not just for high school seniors. I love the fact that one of the clubs does this in a middle school. It means that kids are exposed to what we do at an early age--and they'll remember it later in life.

The essay entry form, it can be found on OI's website at: http://optimist.org/Form/ESSAY_RULES_PAD-E_12-13.pdf

I need all club-winning essays by **Feb 28, 2013**. They can be emailed to me at donkresch@att.net with all the supporting documentation in PDF, Word, or WordPerfect format. Please note that if you scan the items, make sure that the resolution is high enough so that it looks good printed out. They can also be snail mailed at:

Don Kresch, Essay Chair
5602 36th Ave, Upper
Kenosha, WI 53144

lets bring out the best in kids' writing abilities!



Tri-Star Sports Update

Greetings!

Here we are again! We're three months into a new Optimist year and we are closer to an ***all new and improved*** SWIS District Tri-Star Basketball Program (do we sound like a Tide Commercial?!). But, it's true that the 2013 program has been overhauled. In recent years, we have seen a decline in participation, especially from the older kids. There are just so many competing activities, traveling leagues, school programs and a wide variety of winter programs. We have always had our strongest showing among the younger participants. After carefully listening to a lot of you, we made a decision to add 6 and 7 year old kids to the district completion for the first time. This age group has less structured activity available to them and hopefully, you will have less scheduling conflicts with this age at the local level.

All new guidelines have been written and can be found along with a lot of helpful information on the SWIS District website. We also distributed these materials at the joint District meeting in November and will be available at the district meeting in February. Letters will go out to all club Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers in January announcing the SWIS District event on **April 13th**. In mid- February, the SWIS District registration forms, a map, and other relevant information will again go out to all club Presidents, Secretary-Treasurers, and SWIS District officers. All of these materials will also be posted on the SWIS District website, giving you plenty of time to plan your local contests and get your participants registered for the SWIS District event on April 13th.

We know some of you have been discouraged by a drop in local participation in recent years. The new age groups should give you an excellent opportunity to target a whole new audience. If you get the young ones involved, there is a great chance that they will come back year after year. We are so excited about seeing a big group in April that we are loading up on a large amount of goodies for the raffle. Get your kids involved today in this great activity!

Also, if anyone is looking for some medals or trophies for your local competition, we have an Optimist we would be glad to put you in contact with. We wish you the best in 2013!



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

Joe Mundwiler
211 Muirfield Circle, North Prairie, WI 53153
Cell: 414-416-6551
Fax: 262-392-2355 (please call first)
Email: jjmundwiler@centurylink.net

Amy Soleimani-Mafi
6501 West Greenfield Avenue #411, West Allis, WI 53214
Cell: 608-436-1815
Email: Amy.soleimani@gmail.com

Optimist International Junior Golf Qualifier

The Optimist Junior Golf Tournament qualifier is set to return again this year in June. The date and place have not been set as of yet. We expect to have things in place by mid-January. Once we have all the logistics of the event set up, we will contact all clubs to help us promote it in your community. We need each club's help to promote it within your community through schools and golf courses to try to increase the number of participants. Winners within each division, if they shoot a qualifying score or lower, can qualify for the International event held in Palm Beach Gardens, FL at PGA National Resort beginning July 25 and continuing through Aug. 4 for the various divisions. We do have multiple qualifying spots within a few divisions. Please look for more information in the coming weeks and at the next SWIS District meeting in February. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Todd Paulus at tpaulus@wi.rr.com or Tom Carls at wmtomc@gmail.com. **Todd Paulus and Tom Carls, Jr. Golf Co-Chairs**

Childhood Cancer– CCC Update

The Childhood Cancer Chair, John Listcher is working on a media spot at the Children's Hospital to present a gift to the Hospital from the SWIS CCC fund of \$10,000.

There will be more information coming when this is coordinated with the hospital.

John Listcher, CCC Chair

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

Topic: *"Why My Voice is Important" OR "Why My Opinions are 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, and are certified to have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more.

More Info: at http://www.optimist.org/Form/CCDHH_RULES_PAD-E_12-13



Details for the contest this 3rd Quarter in 2013 will be coming from the co-chairs in the near future.

CCDHH Co-Chairs: Donna Cairy dlsiowski@charter.net 608-558-5633
Barb Nelson, myhchili@tds.net 608-558-0348

2013 ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Why My Voice is Important"

There is still plenty of time for your club to participate in the longest running program (since 1928) of Optimist International – the Oratorical Contest! It is a great opportunity for kids to gain experience in public speaking and have a chance to win one of three college scholarships – a significant change from past years! And it provides many opportunities to network with parents, teachers, judges and administrators.

The SWIS District will again have a combined boys and girls contest as well as a lower age requirement!

1. Combined gender contest with 3 scholarships (\$2500-\$1500-\$1000)
2. Contestants must be under 16 as of 12-31-12

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, for our District the maximum age is 15 as of 12-31-12. The majority of the Clubs that have consistently run contests have successfully targeted this younger segment specifically Middle School youth.

There is NO minimum number of contestants for a Club Contest. This will allow more clubs to participate without having to meet a minimum. Also, at the Club Level judges may be Optimist Members as long as they are not acquainted with the contestants. The theme for this year is – *"Why My Voice is Important"*. Using this theme, boys and girls prepare and recite a 4 – 5 minute speech judged on Poise, Content, Delivery and overall 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 Optimist International's web site at www.optimist.org. Click on Members/Clubs & Districts/Programs /Oratorical Contest and you are there. (Direct link to document: http://www.optimist.org/form/oratorical_rules_pad-e_12-13.pdf .) **You will need to change the age on the 2012-2013 Application provided in the Packet from under 19 to under 16 before distributing.**

Club contests are held in January, February and March. The next level is Zone Contests which are held in March and April. The final District Contest will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at our 3rd District Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Lake Delton.



Jim Costanzo
District Oratorical Chair, jvito@chorus.net
(608) 849-7747 (608) 206-2060 (cell)

Southern Wisconsin Optimists District Oratorical Contest

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

- Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2013
- Awards:** **1st, 2nd & 3rd** place winners receive a **\$2500, \$1500 & \$1000** college scholarship & plaque. All contestants receive lapel pins and framed certificates.
- Eligibility:** Contestants under the age of **16** as of December 31st of the 2012-13 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 20, 2013**
 - Zone winner info submitted no later than **April 22, 2013**
- District Contest** Saturday, May 11, 2013 8:30 AM to Noon
- Location:** 3rd District Conference – Kalahari Resort, WI Dells-Lake Delton
- Contact:** Jim Costanzo
District Chair
- 5619 Cobblestone Lane
Waunakee, WI 53597-9000
Home phone: 608.849.7747
Cell phone: 608.206.2060
- E-mail: jvito@chorus.net



Football Sweepstakes Information

Once again the football sweepstakes program was a success within the SWIS District clubs during the 2012 NFL season. An amount equal to \$45,727.00 was returned to the 43 SWIS District clubs that participated in this year's sweepstakes. The SWIS District has 59 active clubs, so 16 clubs did not participate in this year's program. A couple clubs that participated in the past did not become involved this year, however, several clubs that did not participate in the past years came on board this year.

In looking forward to the upcoming NFL season for 2013, I am prepared to have the tickets ready for delivery to SWIS clubs at the May Conference. So please have someone from your club in attendance at the Conference to pick up your club's allotment of tickets at that time. Now is the time to look ahead at next season, and determine the amount of tickets that your club can actually sell, and get that number to me at your earliest convenience.

It is my goal to have every club in the district active in ticket sales next year. There are 16 clubs out there that did not participate this past year. Hopefully with a little football sweepstakes education on my part, we can make that happen. It stands to reason that more ticket sales means more dollars returned to selling clubs. I am available to attend your club meeting and explain the program to any club that has not participated in the past, or if an update is needed to help increase ticket sales. Many club ticket sellers have mentioned that the tickets sell themselves. If the buyer understands how the ticket works, and the clubs understand the benefit that the sales bring to the little ones in their community, all of the clubs in the district could increase the amount in their treasury considerably. It is really a shame that 16 clubs did not feel it was important to put more funds back into their community during this past football season.

Most important at this time, please contact me as soon as possible as to the amount of tickets that your club will sell during the upcoming selling season. Last year, many clubs did not let me know how many tickets they needed, so I had to guess when I put the packets together. It would be great to be able to keep the ticket numbers in sequence for each club, rather than add at several times in the future. That makes my spreadsheet fill up fast if the numbers are not in sequence.

At this time, I certainly want to thank all of the club's and the club sellers from the past year. We had a great time working on this project, and as always, I am looking forward to working with all of you again this year.

FRED DORN, NFL SWEEPSTAKES CHAIR PERSON fdorn@chorus.net

Wisconsin Leadership Seminars (WILS)

The 2012 Wisconsin Leadership Seminar (WILS) was held June 15-17th at Carroll University in Waukesha, WI. There were over 200 ambassadors in attendance from across the state of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

This year clubs from the SWIS district donated \$1800 in sponsorships to WILS, funding 9 students to attend. WILS would like to thank you all for your contributions that allow us to keep offering this program free of charge to the attendees, their parents, and their respective schools.

The ambassadors that attended were involved in numerous activities including talks by our two keynote speakers Paul Wesselmann and Darin Eich. They also participated in numerous leadership activities, helping the ambassadors discover their leadership style, explore their ethics and view points, and understand how environment and living situations can shape their daily lives. There were educational workshops on a variety of topics including: diversity in our communities, communication and humor in leadership, digital identity, environmental impact, finding your true self, the art of self-presentation while letting others shine and students leading students. In addition, the ambassadors also participated in community service projects throughout the Milwaukee area performing over 600 hours service. A detailed program schedule with additional information can be found on www.WILS.us for anyone interested.

Needless to say WILS 2012 was another huge success, making memories that will last a lifetime for those in attendance. We look forward to another great year and working with the SWIS district for WILS 2013. Thank you again for all of your support and look for communication coming soon about sponsoring students for our upcoming 2013 seminar.

Jesse Braun, WILS Club Fundraising Chair

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SWIS DISTRICT SK8BOARD COMPETITION SERIES 2012



We had an Awesome year!
6 Clubs had a local competition with a total of 85 youth participating.

THANK YOU TO THE PARTNERSHIP WITH:

SWIS DISTRICT OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
KEVIN & JOLEEN AUSTIN – DISTRICT CHAIRS

NATIONAL GUARD
GATORADE

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

4SEASONS SKATEPARK, MILWAUKEE WI
SOUTHPORT RIGGING, KENOSHA WI
BONES
BMA CLOTHING
BELOIT OPTIMIST CLUB
METRO MILWAUKEE OPTIMIST CLUB
MUKWONAGO OPTIMIST CLUB

KENOSHA NOON OPTIMIST CLUB
DELAVAN-DARIEN OPTIMIST CLUB
CROSS PLAINS OPTIMIST CLUB
LARRY BARBERA – SWIS DISTRICT GOVERNOR
MONSTER ENERGY
HAZE GRAPHICS

COOPERATING ASSISTANCE FROM:

METRO MILWAUKEE OPTIMIST CLUB-
CONCESSIONS
4SEASONS SKATEPARK STAFF
VIDEOGRAPHERS / PHOTOGRAPHERS

JUDGES
ALL VOLUNTEERS
PARENTS & FRIENDS

Kevin & Joleen Austin

SWIS District Optimist Skateboard Co-Chairs

Kevin cell: 262-325-7210 or Joleen cell: 262-325-1237

E-mail: ddoptimistclub@gmail.com

Website: <http://ddoptimist.wordpress.com/sk8board-competition-series/>



Kenosha 2012



Milwaukee 2012



Beloit 2012



Cross Plains 2012



East Troy (Mukwonago) 2012



Delavan 2012

ALL of the 2012 List of Skateboard Club Competitors is available on the Skateboard website at:
<http://ddoptimist.wordpress.com/sk8board-competition-series/>



DISTRICT FINALS 2012

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place of SWIS District Finals
 The other competitors are on the website.

FINALS	BEGINNERS	INTERMEDIATE	EXPERT
4Seasons, Milwaukee	Owen Liban	Jesus Arenas	Justin Garcia
10/20/2012	Val Goetz	Ethan Sperber	Josh Oakes
	Vallen Thorpe	Brendon Manry	Mitch Schmidt

OTHER CLUB HIGH LIGHTS in 2012 - 2013

Mequon Thiensville Optimist Club Honors Eagle Scouts

Eagle Scout, Peter Malicky spoke to the Mequon-Thiensville Optimist group in December and shared his project. He chose the Grafton Aurora Hospital's 1-mile walking path around the hospital. He had the idea of placing bricks in the ground to mark off each .1 mile and said he used the one-mile blacktop walking path that was already in place. Peter is in Troup 865, Mequon.

With the financial help of our Club and his grandparents he finished it with the help of 19 volunteers; "Land Works" in Sussex gave him the stones; Mr. Hilgendorf at "Rock of Ages" in Grafton gave him a nice discount and cut the wording in each stone to mark off ".1 mile" on each stone.

Also in December the club presented a statue and \$50 check to **Eagle Scout, Daniel Francis of Troop 865** Mequon. The Eagle Ceremony was held on December 1, 2012. For his Eagle project, Daniel worked with the group Feed My Starving Children. Through his efforts, funds were raised and over 7,000 meals and were packed for the charity. *Feed My Starving Children* is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and ship the meals to nearly 70 countries around the world.

Submitted by: **Kay Freyer**, Mequon-Thiensville Optimist



Eagle Scout, Peter Malicky and Crew Helpers



SWIS Optimists Recognize: Major Jonathan Freyer who received the **Bronze Star** medal for his duty in Afghanistan. Howard Crofoot, SWIS District Secretary-Treasurer, is unable to be at the 2nd Quarter Conference with his Optimist friends. He will be welcoming home **Captain Henry Crofoot** from a 1 year tour in Afghanistan. Along with their families, we are proud of ALL our service men/women and thank them for their service to our country.

Memories of Recent Optimists

Wally King passed away In December. Wally was a member of the Racine Club and had been a Sec/Treasurer for over 40 years and also been very active-volunteering in the community helping youth. In his younger days, he served in WWII, and recently took part in the honor flight.

Bob Johnson passed away In December. Bob was a member of the Madison Downtown Club for many years. He provided his musical talent at many club meetings.

Irvin Felda passed away In December; Irvin was a past president of both the Janesville Tuesday and Thursday Clubs and had been a member from 1975. He was also extremely active in Janesville communities with various youth activities.

There will be a Memoriam of all Optimists that pass away during the year at a future conference. Please provide the names/dates of any others that passed away in the 2012-13 year to Governor Larry Barbera. All these wonderful optimists have left a wonderful legacy and will be missed.

Menomonee Falls Optimist Club Packer Raffle and Theater Schedule

The Packer Raffle in Menomonee Falls showed a profit of over \$20,000 for the raffle. Ticket sales were up to 350 tickets compared to the last two years. Many members were recognized and honored for their sales. Dan Schwind, coordinated the project and served as a team captain to many optimists. This was the largest fundraiser in the club history. Congratulations to everyone involved, fantastic job.

JJ Selland has brought attention to optimists about many Broadway plays that are available and that Optimist member John Barnes has put together some very special packages. Some of the plays coming up are: Memphis, Friday January 11; Sister Act, Friday February 22; Catch Me, Friday, April 26, and Wicked, Friday, June 21. (There are more time frames available through the www.marcuscenter.org website.). If any others are interested, contact JJ Selland mrjviking@tds.net to see if you can participate in a group,

2012 BANQUETS and EVENTS



Brodhead Club Banquet 2012



Racine Halloween 2012



Monona Grove with Santa



Monroe Noon Banquet 2012



Sauk Trails-Madison Banquet 2012



Janesville Club Activities

Edgerton Club: Organized August 28, 2012 and the Charter banquet was held on November 10, 2012. Charter President is **Mark Christenson** and charter treasurer is **Stephanie Snittler**, college roommate of Lt Gov, Zone 1, and **Amy Soleimani-Mafi**. The Charter Banquet was attended by many optimists. **Builder of Excellence-BOE to: Vern Andren, Maureen Crombie, Dwaine Sievers, Bonnie Spindler.**

