



SWIS 2015-2016 NEWSLETTER



SWIS District

April / May / June Volume 19, Issue 3

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Message from Governor Howard



Howard Crofoot

Welcome to all SWIS District Optimists! Half the year went by quickly and we are having a late spring and hopefully a wonderful summer.

The District held the District Tri-Star Basketball skills competition in Mukwonago again on April 16. Thanks to all the clubs who sent contestants and congratulations to everyone! Many thanks to Joe Mundwiler and Amy Soleimani-Mafi for chairing this event!

The Essay contest is finished and we are preparing to honor the District winner at the SWIS District Conference on April 30 at the Kalahari in the Wisconsin Dells. Don Kresch continues to do an outstanding job with this contest.

Congratulations to the CCDHH winner! I hope our winner will attend the Conference and be recognized for her achievement. It was a nice contest with 7 contestants in Monroe on April 16. Thanks to Donna Ann Cairy for your dedication to this contest.

Clubs and Zones have done the hard job of selecting their Oratorical winners and we will have the District competition at the Kalahari also. Jack Soceka, with help from Jo'El Pearlman, has gotten things ready for the competition and don't forget the Pizza Party on Friday night! I know it will be a good time. We are delaying the start of the Conference proper to allow Conference attendees to hear many of our contestants give their speeches. Please take advantage of that. Remember, the District winner will compete via technology to be the World Champion in June!

Thanks to all who helped set up, run and attend the Super Zone meetings. A special thanks to Vern Andren, Pete Olsen and Tim Miller who led the training sessions at each location. We want to continue bringing the camaraderie and training closer to the clubs so more Optimists can attend. We talked about "One and Done" – a simple method for clubs to do a small membership oriented project each month. I hope many of you have good stories to tell of your efforts since the Super Zone meetings!

Speaking of membership, we have many clubs who could be eligible for Honor Club at the end of the year. This is a goal that ALL clubs should aspire to achieve. As a re-

Continued - Message from Governor Howard

minder, to be eligible for Honor Club, you need to pay dues to OI and SWIS; submit 2 reports – Club Officer Elect Report (COER) electronically through www.optimistleaders.org by May 20 and the Presidents Pride Report electronically also by September 30; recognize either a Club member or community individual as documented in the Presidents Pride Report; conduct 3 projects throughout the year; and be net + 1 in membership at the end of the year. For many clubs the last task seems to be the hardest. As of mid-April, we have 11 clubs that are at least +1, 18 more that are net 0, and 9 that are at -1 for the year. That is 38 clubs who could be Honor Clubs with a little effort. Some other clubs may need a little more help to come back from a bigger deficit and we at the District are willing to help. Sun Prairie is leading the pack at +14. If they end up +15, then they will be a Distinguished Club. Let's continue with the "One and Done" efforts each month to increase the chances of getting more members to do more projects for our youth!

Vern Andren and members of the Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club are working very hard to sponsor a new club. It is tentatively called Southwest Milwaukee and will be in the Greendale, Greenfield, New Berlin, Franklin area. They are only 2 new members away from being able to charter. If you know of anyone who lives or works in this area who would be a good Optimist, contact Vern Andren, Eric DeGroot, Jessica Hodgson or Jerry Kuhnz.

There are opportunities to get professional and personal development at the SWIS Conferences on April 29-30 and the SWIS District Convention on August 26 – 27. SWIS will reimburse up to 67 district Optimists for the cost of registration to the Optimist International Summit conference in Bloomington, MN on May 14. Currently we have 7 SWIS District members attending. The topics are geared toward club members and officers to improve the club and the individual. There is much more available at OI Convention in Quebec City in Canada this year from June 30 – July 3. More camaraderie, more sharing, more leadership development, and we get to welcome our own Jim Kondrasuk as the incoming Optimist International President!



Leadership Development

It was my honor to be invited to the Waukesha OC Tri Star Basket Ball event which was held this past week-end on Saturday, April 9th at one of their local elementary schools. Michael Jipson had his Club volunteers all lined up and ready to go and the event saw over 100 children from the area participate. It was a huge success with a lot of parents saying thank you.

The reason I want to mention this is because the Waukesha Optimist Club does something really well and it deserves to be mentioned. Most - if not all - of the events they sponsor directly involve children and parents participating with their Club in events. While I know they write checks out to organizations that help children, their main goal is to actively get the children and their parents physically involved with their Optimist Club. It is a formula that makes sense and helps their Club with recognition through-out the community.

Continued - Leadership Development

When you couple your Club's activities directly with the children and their parent's involvement you have a winning combination for growth in your Club - but only if you promote your Club through-out the activity. Verbally mentioning your Club is not enough. You need to have hand out materials ready - and hand them out. You need to have one of your Club members that is socially interested in meeting people and asking them to join your Club work the crowd and set up an expectation that good things happen when good parents join a good Optimist Club.

So follow Waukesha's OC lead and watch your Club grow. Children + Parents = OC Growth. Their next event is in a month or so when every 5th grade student in their school district will be running a mile at the High School in an effort to win a trophy, ribbon and T - Shirt. I know that it is a well attended event because last year the parent's showed up in force to watch their children run in a cold and wet rain. We all had a good time! Try it - You'll like it!

Remember - One and Done !

Pete Olsen

Chair - leadership Development



Robert "Bob" Balow Passed Away



2015 2016 Lt. Governor of the SWIS Zone 2 Robert "Bob" Balow passed away on February 24th

We will miss his gentle smile & caring ways. We lost a dear friend, a wonderful person and a true Optimist.

Bob was a long time resident of Racine, founder of 4 companies, Lt Governor for the SWIS District Optimist Club, and as an avid inventor, Bob was the holder of numerous patents. He was born in Eau Claire and received his B.S. in metallurgical engineering from UW Madison. He then moved to Racine and founded Accu-Temp Heat Treating, Inc. where he worked with many companies such as Harley Davidson, CNH, Pioneer Products and John Deere. Through his metallurgical knowledge and expertise, Bob was able to travel worldwide and consult for many large corporations such as Johnson's Was, GM, Miller-Coors and Lodge Manufacturing. Bob enjoyed reading, fishing, pottery, astronomy, gardening, "tinkering" and inventing. One of his personal inventions, the Pasta Fork, was aired on the Ellen Show. He found-

Continued - Robert "Bob" Balow Passed Away

ed the Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club of Racine and Kenosha. Bob was extremely passionate about helping others and actively participated in community-based programs volunteering much of his time and was a huge presence in the Optimist Club. Bob received numerous awards for his dedication to community, including an award from the Racine Police department for his assistance in developing lifesaving tools and was the Racine Wednesday Club's Optimist of the Year 2012.

Racine Wednesday President, Kathy Vescova, gave this prayer at their meeting.

"Lord, The prayer we are offering up today is for one very special person. We often wonder why you take the great ones home. You must have a better plan for him. Bob was a friend, a family man, an inventor, a business man and an Optimist.

He was generous to a fault. I tried to pick one piece of our Optimist Creed that may be most appropriate; but I couldn't pick just one. Bob was strong, happy, prosperous, and he made us feel important. He had a positive attitude. He always did his best. He was enthusiastic, forgiving, cheerful and noble.

We are struggling with our loss of a great friend and wondering how we will get through the coming fund raisers without him, but I'm sure he will be looking down on our club and guide us to serve the youth in our community. In your name we pray, Amen"



CCDHH Update

Hello Everyone! We had an incredible SWIS district Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing this year! First of all, I want to thank all of the clubs and individuals that stepped up to help sponsor the kids. There were 10 clubs that donated money. The kids and I are very grateful!

There were 7 kids with hearing loss who participated this year. Their ages ranged from 12-18. The winner of the CCDHH contest is a junior from Waukesha High School. She won a \$2,500.00 scholarship toward her higher education. She will be at the district conference to present her speech.



Continued - CCDHH Update

Also, as a side note, the winner's mom said this after the contest: "I just want to thank you and the Optimists so much! You have no idea what this means to our family. The last two years have been terrible for us with my husband passing away. This will really take some stress off of our family."

... And that is why we do what we do as Optimists.

Donna Cairy CCDHH Chair



SW Milwaukee Optimist Club (In Waiting)

Excellent activity leads us close to being able to charter (organize) the South West Milwaukee Optimist Club. We have a ways to go so if any club can recommend any potential members of good character in the South West Milwaukee area please contact Eric DeGroot (414) 350-7300 or Vern Andren (608) 345-2834. The real leaders of the new group are Jerry Kuhn and Jessica Hodgson. They are outstanding leaders of GREAT character. The picture with this article are Jerry and Jessica and Eric.

Will their first project be a youth of the month, oratorical contest, bike safety, fund raiser or having kids help at a homeless shelter together with members?

Folks, there is nothing better to educate your members than let them be involved in new club activity. When this activity is complete, think of the additional kids that can be given opportunity to grow into our leaders of tomorrow. Think of the expansion that can happen in your club if your members have to explain why they are optimists to others. Think of the potentials for new leaders in your club when they see others making something this basic, this great, this principled and this much fun happen because of your and their help. Let's start another new club in the SWIS District, so set step forward. If you need or want help give me a call. I won't do it for you but I will teach you how to do it.

In Optimism

Vern Andren, Eric DeGroot, Jerry Kuhn, Jessica Hodgson



IS YOUR CLUB HEALTHY?

Is your membership strong and growing?

Are you continually looking for more opportunities to serve the youth in your communities?

Do you need a new fundraising project?

Please check out the HONOR CLUB requirements.

If your club meets these requirements each year...YOU ARE DOING THINGS RIGHT!

Honor Club

- ◆ Complete at least three service projects a year and (submit President's Pride Report) before Sept 30th.
- ◆ Recognize a Club member or local community individual....and this can be done by a simple certification of recognition.
[Award Certification Document](#)
- ◆ Grow your Club in membership by just a net plus 1
- ◆ Be current on District and OI dues

Has your club ever had a NOW Meeting? N.O.W. stands for New Optimists Wanted (or Welcomed). This is a great way to add members. Just follow the simple "Proven" laid out TO DO LIST and have a FUN TIME having a great dinner! GO ON LINE to get more information or call your District Membership Chair or Club Fitness Advisor for assistance.

www.optimist.org/documents/now_brochure.pdf

The "NOW" meeting must be a time when prospects will not be rushed. At least two hours must be available for the meeting. Key Elements in the "NOW Program can be found at these sites.

www.optimistleaders.org

www.optimistleaders.org/TeachingMaterials/.../NOWProgram.ppt

Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club Had A Busy Start To 2016

The Annual Great Kenosha Pizza Bake- Off on February 28th welcomed several hundred pizza-lovin' guests to a new location to pick Kenosha area's best pizza. There was also a special guest panel of judges picking the "Critics Choice Best Pizza", which included representatives from the Sheriff's department, local newspaper and radio stations, State Representative Samantha Kerkman, and Chief David Smetana of the Pleasant Prairie Police Department. There were so many different pizzas from buffalo cheddar ranch to banana split pizza that guests had to keep tasting the different pizzas at the over and over again-not a bad thing for a Family- Friendly Night Out to help Youth Programs! Funds raised at the Pizza Bake Off help support the Optimist Club's Just Say No Family Activity Area, Tri-Star Basketball, Oratorical Scholarship Contests, CCDHH Contest, Outing for the Discovery Group, Youth Appreciation & Respect for Law Day, Safe Trick or Treat for Children with Special Needs and the Boys & Girls Youth of the Year Scholarship.

The hardworking Randall Junior Optimist Club brought fantastic energy to the Pizza Bake Off. They helped with set up, and sold water, soda pop and encouraged guests looking to finish off the evening to please make a donation and enjoy something sweet from their tasty-treat table. The evening ended with Huge Smiles and Happy Tummies for everyone!



Continued - Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club Had A Busy Start To 2016

Kenosha Expo-“Just Say No” Family Activity Area at UW Parkside

Optimists encourage youth to visit at least 19 booths that help promote safety and health at the Kenosha Expo by providing a form that when they complete, they can return it to get a t-shirt, make fun crafts and toys & enter a drawing to have lunch with Optimists & Local Law Officials. Police Chief David Smetana helped man the booth this year joined by Optimists Larry Nelson, Kathy Nelson, Ruth Stoner and some surprise guests.



Pictured above left to right back row: Chief David Smetana, Larry Nelson and left to right front row: Ruth Stoner and Kathy Nelson



Frozen Princesses helped Chief David Smetana welcome families to the Kenosha Optimist “Just Say No” Family Activity Area



Belle & Cinderella helped Future Optimists make crafts and toys

Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club had a busy start to 2016

Youth Appreciation & Respect for Law Day



Special Youth Appreciation Guest's Tristin, Colten, Kara and Kylie met their "Respect for Law Buddies" at the Pizza Party

The Youth that won the drawing at the Kenosha Expo and their brothers and sisters, moms and dads and grandparents were invited to a Pizza Party with the Optimists and local law enforcement officials from the Kenosha Area on Thursday, March 31st. Each family had the great opportunity to talk with and get to know their "Law Official & Optimist Buddies" that day. The "Buddies" consisting of 1 or 2 Optimists and 1 or 2 Law Officials were assigned to each child's table to provide a fun and great memory-making experience. Each Law Official was then honored for their work to keep the community a safer place and the kids were given "Good Citizen Friend of Optimism" awards and a gift certificate for a bike.

So many wonderful things happened that day plus (2) more!

This year, the Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club celebrates it's 25th year serving the Youth of the Kenosha Area. President Kathy Holland presented the 25 year Anniversary Award to Charter Member, Larry Nelson who along with past SWIS Governor, CoryAnn St. Marie Carls started the Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club in January 1991.



President Kathy Holland presents Charter Member, Larry Nelson with the 25 Years helping the Youth in Our Community Award. The Kenosha Area Noon Optimist Club turned 25 in January 2016.

We are pleased to announce that thanks to Erin Winch and Ruth Stoner, our friend and Hero, **Chief David Smetana of the Pleasant Prairie Police Department** became our newest KENOSHA AREA NOON OPTIMIST CLUB member!



TRI-STAR Basketball Update

We are delighted to be coming off a terrific District Tri-Star event this past weekend! Overall, numbers were up from the last few years, having over 120 contestants for the day spanning numerous district clubs! And, our participants continue to be outstanding athletes and awe us year after year with their poise, grace and sportsmanship.

Of course, this event isn't possible without the support of our fellow Optimists, Clubs and District support. Thank you to the Mukwonago Optimist Club for undertaking the event again this year, all of local clubs that sponsor this event – along with the associated local event chairs and their support teams, district support in the form of special Emcee Governor Howard and additional event volunteers Maureen Crombie and Pete Olsen that pitched in their time and energy this year, in addition to the financial support the District provided this year to hold participation fees at the same rate as past years. We couldn't do it without you - thank you, thank you!



A list of all of the district winners will be shared in the next newsletter (stay tuned!) and photos will be on the district site soon. In the meantime, enjoy a couple snapshots from the day.

If you or your club would like more info on this contest in order to participate in future years, simply contact one of us at the info below.

Happy Spring,

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](tel:414-416-6551)
Fax: [262-392-2355](tel:262-392-2355) (please call first)
Email: jjmundwiler@centurylink.net

Amy Soleimani-Mafi
1916 East Broadway #842, Waukesha, WI 53186
Cell: [608-436-1815](tel:608-436-1815)
Email: amy.soleimani@gmail.com

SWIS Website 3rd Quarter News

WWW.SWISDISTRICT.ORG



LEADERSHIP TOOLS: <http://swisdistrict.org/leadership/default.asp>

Leadership Tools Main: (Contains Direct Links to these other areas).
 District Newsletters
 Youth Programs
 District Conferences
 District Club Events

Succeeding As a Leader:

Accepting Challenge of Club President
 Accepting Challenge of District Position

Newsletters:

Current followed by news back to 2011-12.

Past Governor's:

Current / Past Governor's pictures/years.

District Positions Available:

Current Year Only of positions available.

Leaderboard:

(See Leaderboard Access Below)

Available for ALL Past Governors, current SWIS District and ALL Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Foundation Reps.

OPTIMIST CLUBS: <http://swisdistrict.org/clubs/default.asp>

District Optimist Clubs:

Map Locations ALL SWIS Clubs (Ctrl F to find a specific club).
 Contact Information SWIS Clubs (Leaderboard Update).

Club Accomplishments:

(Leaderboard Update).

Featured Clubs:

(AFTER Club Profile completed in Leaderboard).

Join/Donate/Participate:

(Prospective Member and Optimist Involvement).

Club/District Events Calendar:

(Leaderboard Updated, Displayed).

YOUTH PROGRAMS: http://swisdistrict.org/youth_programs/default.asp

Youth Programs Main: (Contains Links to ALL the below.)

Club Programs:

Childhood Cancer Internet Safety
 Respect for Law Youth Appreciation
 Youth Safety

District Programs:

Essay Contest OI Golf Program
 Oratorical Contest Tri-Star Basketball
 Communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing -CCDHH

JOOI Programs:

DISTRICT CONFERENCES: <http://swisdistrict.org/conferences/default.asp>

District Conference Activities:

Current Upcoming Conferences in Year.
 Registration Available for Next Conference.

Past Conferences Information:

Contains Information About Past Conference.
 Contains Pictures from Past Conference.

RESOURCES INFORMATION: <http://swisdistrict.org/resources/default.asp>

Resources MAIN: OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL & SWIS Resources:

www.optimist.org www.optimistleaders.org
www.optimistmail.org www.oifoundation.org
 Optimist Suppliers Other Optimist Resources (below).

Request Information:

(For optimists and future members)

Public and Optimist Resources:

1-One and Done Program	Membership information
Clubs Forms/Documents/Logos *	Clubs Honoring Students Info
FundCrazz Program	Frequently Asked Questions
Membership Growth Programs	Oi Foundation Information
Optimist International Resources	Service to Kids in Communities
SWIS Club Services Prg (Fitness)	SWIS Conf Round Table Inf

District Officers:

Optimist International Officers:

Optimist Regions:

- Includes: Club Installations, New Member Inductions, Citations, PGI Info, President Pride Form, OI/SWIS Dues Info, Logos, Insurance, Policies, etc.

Continued - SWIS Website 3rd Quarter News

WWW.SWISDISTRICT.ORG



LEADERBOARD: Available ONLY to ALL Past Governor's, CURRENT SWIS District Officers, Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, OI Reps. (*Other Optimists can be added upon request to SWIS Webmaster*).

Leaderboard Tools > Leaderboard Login:

E-Mail Address: Exists in Optimist International records.
 First time: Check to 'retrieve your password' (Your Internal Password will be sent to your e-mail address).
 Logon Process: Your Password, and security code.

LEADERBOARD MAIN: Includes Resources and Club Tools Resources:

District Directories:
 Current SWIS District Officers/Chairs.
 Current SWIS Club Directory (all CLUBS).
 Past District & Club Directories to 11-12 year.

District Documents:
 District & Club Training Programs Available.
 District Forms and Documents *
 SWIS Board and Executive Minutes
 SWIS District Policies
 SWIS Henry Stiner Award Recipients
 SWIS Special Clubs Honored Recipients

- Includes: Annual Club Planning – ACPC, Club Officer Installation, SWIS Expense Report, Liability Insurance, Internal Recognition Program, OI/SWIS Dues, others.

Online Resources:
 Dime a Day, Personal Growth-PGI, Facebook, Unrestricted Funds, etc.

Club Building Strategies:
 Links to: Membership, Growth, Types, New Clubs, Club Services, etc.

Club Tools:

Club Profile View, Edit, Update, etc.
 Club Logo Update
 Club Events View, Post, Update, Delete, etc.
 Club Members, Officers: View, temporary updates.
 (*Permanent Updates > www.optimistleaders.org with quarterly downloads from OI of ALL SWIS Membership*)
 Accomplishments View, Post, Update, Delete, etc.
 Photos: Can be Added, (verify sizing).

Training Videos:

For District/Club Leaders Assistance
 Submitting Accomplishments
 Updating Logo's
 Editing Member Information
 Adding an Event and Processing



CONTACT: **BONNIE SPINDLER, SWIS WEBMASTER**
blspindler@charter.net 608-833-7244 (H)

WHAT ARE THESE FUN OPTIMISTS LOOKING FOR? A GREAT...



Optimist Day at Miller Park T-Shirt!



Design the 1st Optimist Day at Miller Park t-shirt and win! Submit your design by May 31st to Jo'El

eventplanner2000@hotmail.com

Optimists attending the Optimist Day at Miller Park who sign up by July 1st will be voting to pick the winning T-shirt design. Get Ready...Get Set....Get Creative!

Upcoming Conference Dates for the 2016-2017 Optimist Year

November 18-19 (2016) – Madison

It Takes a Village – Networking Throughout Your Community

February 18-19 (2017) – South-Central Wisconsin

Elders to Newborns – Intergenerational Family Tree

May 12-13 or 19-20 (2017) – Wisconsin Dells

Our Own Walls – Common Club Problems and Solutions

August 24-26 (2017) – Milwaukee

Tear Down That Wall – A Celebration of Bridge-Building