



SWIS 2015-2016 NEWSLETTER



SWIS District

January / February / March Volume 19, Issue 2

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Message from Governor Howard



Howard Crofoot

Welcome to all SWIS District Optimists! The first quarter went by quickly and we are into a new calendar year. I hope all clubs were able to take advantage of the Holiday period to do many projects for the children in your communities.

As we begin this calendar year, we need to focus on our signature programs – Essay, Oratorical and CCDHH. Don Kresch has done the Essay program for many years and can help clubs with any questions on this program. Jack Soceka is in his second year with the District Oratorical program. Remember that this will be the first year for additional competition beyond District level and additional scholarships! I would like to encourage as many clubs as possible to do the Oratorical program. Jack and the Lt. Governors will be working with you on this. Donna Ann Cairy has led the CCDHH program for many years. This is our Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). It is run just like the Oratorical program, but for those children with hearing impairments. If you know of children with hearing impairments who wish to compete, please contact Donna for more information.

We have our 3 Super Zone meetings on January 30, February 6 and February 13. The first will be in South Milwaukee, with the second at the Fitchburg Library and the third at UW-LaCrosse. Our intent is to bring the District meetings closer to the clubs and members. We want to learn from clubs and club members. We hope that these meetings will help current officers learn how to run their clubs more efficiently and encourage other members to volunteer for leadership roles at the Club, Zone and District levels. It is just a few hours on a Saturday. There is no cost and District will provide lunch. Please sign up on the SWIS District website so we know how many lunches to plan for.

We are working with Lt. Governors and Club Presidents to schedule a Zone con-

Continued - Message from Governor Howard

ference call. This is an opportunity for me to speak with the Lt. Governor and clubs in each zone. It is an opportunity for club presidents to tell us your success stories and to get ideas to improve your club. Lt. Governors – please get with your Presidents and determine the best times for a call, then get that info to Vern Andren.

Additionally, we have some clubs who will be recognized for achievements during the past year by Immediate Past Governor Jeff Kuchenbecher. Brodhead was a Distinguished Club in 2014 – 2015. There were 11 clubs that met requirements for Honor Club last year. Those were Beaver Dam, Beloit-Breakfast, Metro Milwaukee, Madison-Sauk Trails, Madison, La Crosse-Breakfast, Milwaukee, Monroe Morning, Platteville, Sun Prairie, and Mazomanie-Wisconsin Heights. Congratulations to all!



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



OI Foundation Update



Optimist Foundation does this for the Kids!

I'd like to share with you a little bit of the History of Optimist International and where we are today.

The international organization was founded at a convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1919. The convention brought together various local and regional clubs.

The turn of the century was a turning point in the organization's history. Following the International Convention in Reno, Nevada, the inaugural Optimist International Junior Bowling Championships (OIJBC) took place there. Junior bowlers battled for the right to be called "Optimist Champion."

In July 2001, Optimists were seated in the White House, pledging to support U.S. President George W. Bush's goal to mentor one million children. Optimist International President Bob Garner called the meeting "yet another sterling example of 'Optimists Bringing Out the Best in Kids.'"

Also in 2001, Optimist International introduced the Childhood Cancer Campaign to provide awareness and support of children battling cancer and the challenges their families face. In 2004, the organization made a \$1 million commitment to Johns Hopkins to underwrite a research focus.

Optimist International signed up the first Friend of Optimists in 2005. This class of membership allows individuals to show their support of the organization's mission if they are unable to commit as a traditional club member.

Also in 2005, the Optimist Junior Golf Program expanded to include the Optimist International Tournament of Champions for top-performing junior golfers ages 14 to 18. On October 1, 2006, the first female international president in Optimist history, Ronnie Dunn, took office for the standard one-year term. In October 2007, Theo Golding of Jamaica became the first international president from outside of Canada or the United States.

With children being introduced to the internet, the organization began an Internet Safety program in 2008 to keep children educated and safe from online predators.

Optimist Clubs are dedicated to "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" and do their part through community service programs. Since each Club is run by members in their community, Optimists have the unique flexibility to serve the youth of their area in any way they see fit. Optimist Clubs see a need in their community and react to it.

Today, Optimist International officially sponsors several International Programs. These include the Childhood Cancer Campaign, Internet Safety, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships and the organization's scholarship contests (Essay Contest, Oratorical Contest and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing). In addition, Optimist International encourages involvement in several other community activities. These activities include Respect for Law, Youth Appreciation and Youth Safety.

You may ask yourself, "Why is the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) so important?"

The Optimist foundation "**Mission Statement**" is seeking, receiving and managing funds and real personal property for the benefit of Optimist International and its Member Clubs in its charitable, literary and educational activities.

The "**Vision Statement**" states we envision a Foundation that can provide significant funding for Optimist International's youth and service programs and is proudly supported by individual Optimists, their clubs, and the community at large.

Continued - OI Foundation Updated

Encourage your club to do a fundraising activity for an unrestricted gift to the foundation, or budget an unrestricted gift to the foundation of at least \$365.00. Club Foundation Representatives (CFR's) are asked to encourage their club members to make an individual gift of at least \$36.50 (Dime-A-Day) in unrestricted gifts.

If a club does not have 501c3 status capability, donations given to clubs can use the 501c3 'taxable' status of the OI Foundation by using the 'Club Pass Through Grant Program'.

Optimists conduct 65,000 community service projects each year, spending \$78 million in their communities. Annually, six million kids are positively affected by Optimist programs.

As Optimists we do this for the kids!

Optimist International Foundation Chair:

Maureen Crombie

Cell: 608-576-5819



Tri-Star Basketball

Greetings to all Optimists from your Tri-Star Basketball co-chairs!

Our Optimist year is one-quarter complete and yet we still have so much to accomplish. For Tri-Star Basketball, our District contest is set for Saturday, April 16th, 2016.

Inclusion of 6 & 7 year olds continues to be a huge success; so, we will continue to host 6 to 13 year olds at the district event.

We will also have our raffle with all entrants in the competition. Both of us will be available by phone and/or email to answer any questions that come up and to assist you with putting together your local contests.

Letters with registration information and program packets will be mailed out in January to all club presidents and secretary/treasurers, as well as our district officers. So, stay tuned for more info to come. And, in the meantime, have a splendid kick-off to your 2016!

**Yours in Optimism,
Joe & Amy**

Joe Mundwiler, Co-Chair
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Amy Soleimani-Mafi, Co-Chair



ATTENTION MARCH MADNESS FOLLOWERS

Take a look at this: I am asking if anyone in the SWIS District would be interested in working with me toward having a Fund Crazr Basketball Sweepstakes like the NFL Sweepstakes that we are running now? It could be open to all clubs in the SWIS District just like the Football Fundraiser.

This is how it would work. A ticket would have four (4) teams covered over with a scratch off film. If your ticket has a team or teams that do not qualify for the tournament, your ticket would be given the next highest seed to replace them, which can be found on the www.fundcrazr.com website. Those four teams would then be your teams for the entire weeks of madness. If a team loses, you get to keep the score from that team, and you would continue on with the remaining teams on your ticket. We would add up the final score for each ticket at the end of the final four week, and that would then determine the winners.

The ticket would have a crazrsaver discount code like the football tickets and the cost is the same at \$20.00 per ticket.

The prize money would be broken down as such:

Highest Score: 600.00 Second Highest: \$400.00 Third Highest: \$300.00

Fourth Highest: \$200.00 Fifth Highest: \$175.00 Sixth Highest: \$150.00

Lowest Score: \$100.00 Second Lowest: \$75.00

In case of a tie, the prizes are combined and split. All results are final.

What I am asking is for anyone that is interested in this, I need to know as soon as possible if your club will be interested in selling tickets like the Football Crazr and earn funds for your club. Putting these tickets together is a very expensive project, so I need to know if this will work out for our SWIS District like the very profitable Football Crazr. I cannot go forward on this if I can't get a commitment from the District clubs that will help guarantee that this will work toward a profitable undertaking, I do not want to stick my neck out on this, so please let me know during December if your club would be interested. A lot of money can be made if all clubs participate.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Dorn fdorn@chorus.net 608-849-5290

www.swisdistrict.org

FINDING THINGS on the Website



Leaderboard Tools

Succeeding as a Leader: (Current/Future Leader Info.)

Newsletters: (Current and Past 4 years of newsletters).

Past Governor's: (Pictures/Logos All Past Governor's.)

OPTIMIST CLUBS

District Optimist Clubs: (Map locations, all clubs in SWIS)

Club Accomplishments: (Clubs Provide Info through Leaderboard)

Featured Clubs: (Clubs who Complete Club Profile are featured).



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Club Programs: (Childhood Cancer, Internet Safety, Respect for Law, Youth Appreciation, Youth Safety).

District Programs: (Essay, Golf, Oratorical, Tri-Star, Communication for Deaf & hard of Hearing – CCDHH).

JOOI Programs: (Info on JOOI Clubs in SWIS).

DISTRICT CONFERENCES

District Activities: (Current Conference)
 Past Conferences: (Club Highlights)

Please Contact me with any updates or needs. **Bonnie Spindler**, SWIS Webmaster
 608-833-7244 blspindler@charter.net



RESOURCES/INFORMATION

Request Information: (Questions/Updates/Support)

Optimist/Public Resources: (FundCrazr, Training Info, Forms/Documents, Frequently Asked Questions, Membership Growth/Types, New Club Building, OI Foundation, Round table summaries, etc.)