



SWIS District Newsletter 2019 - 2020



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Governor Christine's State of the District

Christine Dieckhoff
SWIS District Governor 2019-2020

As I looked back at the goals I've written for the SWIS District, I was pleased to see we are working toward meeting those goals quite well! Our 1st quarter conference was fun and friendly, and focused on club members having time to share their ideas to improve membership and to participate in the oratorical contest. We also met and heard from our Vice President of the Great Plains region, Lyle Merriam. Good food, special awards and meeting the "turning over a new leaf" challenge (way too much fun on that one) rounded out the day!

A challenge was issued to the clubs to develop a NEW youth service project for the 2019-2020 year. This project must be new for the club, planned and implemented before October 1st, 2020, and must be a youth service project. Fundraisers will not be accepted. To apply, send me a brief summary of the project, your name and your club by July 31st, 2020. The winner will be announced and will receive their check at the SWIS District 4th Quarter Conference in August. The top winner will receive \$500; or if there is a tie, each club will be awarded \$250. Judges for the contest have not yet been determined, but will be done so in order to ensure that this contest is without bias. All projects will be shared after the contest so that other clubs can implement the projects in their communities as well.

The most important thing that needs to be worked on is increasing the membership, which lies solely in the hands of the clubs. Past Governor Maureen left the district with 51 more members than she started with, which is phenomenal! But the months that followed brought a quick decline of 25 members, and as of today, we are -43 members. I'm urging all clubs to try to be an honor club, meaning they will add 2 members to their roster (net) as quickly as they can! Ready, set, go! Another way to bring in more members is to build a new club. Hopefully a few new areas are being looked at to start a club there soon!

It's time to look forward as we enter a new decade, 2020, and to "look at the sunny side of everything, and make our optimism come true!" Imagine with me, 110 more members in the SWIS District, that's 2 more per club, holding the best oratorical, essay and CCDHH contests ever, serving 3,850 more kids in new and exciting ways, and getting most of the members in each club engaged in their activities to make that happen. Now that's Optimism!

Christine Dieckhoff
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Maxine's Message

Maxine Lane

Governor-Elect 2019-2020

Being an Optimist...What's in it for me?

Perhaps at some point, before or even after becoming an Optimist Member, you have asked this question of yourself...What's in it for me? I'm sure we would have many different answers if we did a poll. I cannot speak for you, but as for me, it is a pleasure to share with you 'what's in it for me'!

First and foremost, serving children! Can one person help all the children that need help throughout the world? Realistically, we know we cannot. However, if we know we help just one, we have made a difference. We do it through supporting sporting events, scholarship programs, school programs, food pantries, holiday events, etc. etc. Within my club, we have the entire list above plus more. I'm sure you do as well in your club. Another way we make an impact on children is by donating through your club to the Optimist International Foundation. Multiple clubs donating to the OI Foundation helps multiple children. Each year in January, our club conducts our Dime-A-Day Drive. Each year we challenge ourselves to exceed the number of member donations from the previous year. To date, our efforts have been successful. If this is currently not an event in your club, I would highly recommend participating in the Dime-A-Day this Optimist Calendar Year. **"Make A Difference in the Life of a Child"**.

Another thought, members in my club and throughout the SWIS District have become my 'circle of friends'. Life without friends can be lonesome, uneventful and unhappy. With friends, you know you have someone who will listen to you, offer their shoulder to lean on, share in your sorrow, laugh with you and at you, support you in times of need and will always 'have your back'. I would strongly encourage you to build upon your friendships by attending a SWIS District Conference. The camaraderie and networking is priceless. You will build a friendship(s) for a lifetime!

And just one more thought to ponder: the personal gratification and satisfaction. Not a day goes by that I don't do something for either the Platteville Optimist Club or for the SWIS District. What I do is not for recognition, but to pay forward some of the benefits I'm blessed with and have received/earned over my lifetime. I'm hopefully filling a need for someone less fortunate than I by providing food, warmth, shelter, education, etc... **"I'm Making a Difference in the Life of a Child"**.

Think about "What's in it for you" so when you invite a friend to join your club and they ask you "What's in it for me?" you will have the perfect answer.



Conference Planning 2019-2020

3rd Quarter: 5/9/2020, Wisconsin Dells

4th Quarter: 8/22/2020, Milwaukee

Welcome to the Next Optimist Decade!

All SWIS flappers & fellas are invited for a Roarin' Good Time!

SWIS District 2nd Quarter Conference

Date: Saturday, February 22nd, 2020

Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 405 E. 9th Avenue, Brodhead, WI

This Conference is the Bee's Knees!

- Feel Free to Dress in fun 20's attire!
- Enjoy our Local "Kids Speak Out" Presentation
- Reach New Heights with Towers of Optimism
- Exchange Ideas on Fundraising & Club Challenges
- Talk a Little Business
- Be Inspired by "Project LIT"
- Bring Your Clam\$ for the Foundation & 50/50 raffle
- Celebrate our Unsung Hero and Award recipients

Just iMagine the fun we will have!

Agenda:

8:30AM: Executive Team Meeting in da' "Back Alley" (step inside first)

9:30AM: Registration in CJ's Speakeasy (sinkers available –aka refreshments)

10:00AM: General Session begins in the Safehouse (password required)

12:00PM: Lefty's Italian Luncheon Buffet

4:00PM: General Session ends; Past Governor's Meeting in the Safehouse –bring your ice cream flask!

Registration: www.SWISDistrict.org/conference

Cost: \$30 includes conference & luncheon; \$20 for students and 1st Time Conference Attendees

For more information contact our conference team: (262) 620-1588

Conference Planning 2019-2020

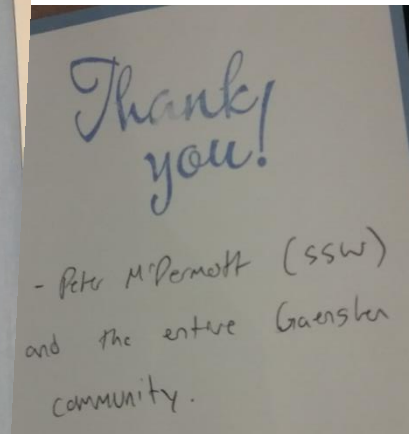
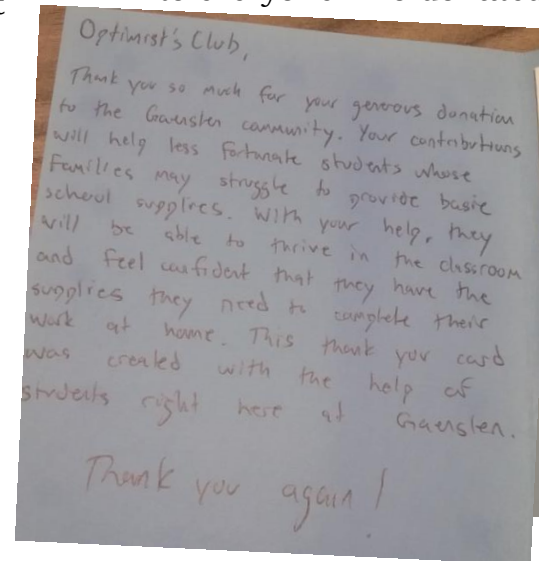
2nd Quarter: 2/22/2020, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brodhead

3rd Quarter: 5/9/2020, Kalahari Resorts, Wisconsin Dells

4th Quarter: 8/22/2020, Milwaukee Radisson West, Milwaukee



At the 4th Quarter Milwaukee conference, Optimists from the SWIS District donated school supplies to benefit under-privileged youth in the Milwaukee Area. Supplies were shared between the Kosciusko Community Center and Gaenslen elementary. The Social Worker from Gaenslen sent us a thank you note that was handmade by the students. Thank you to everyone who donated! You really brought out the best in youth!



Optimist International Foundation Update
SWIS District OI Foundation Representative: Wayne Dieckhoff

Dear Members,

Because of your generosity, I was recognized as a 4th quarter incentive winner! The incentive program, which was started at the last conference, is just another way we can make a difference in kid's lives.

We also have the dime-a-day campaign with which to support the Foundation. By signing up, you'll contribute \$36.50 to help out Foundation programs such as oratorical and essay contests.

Now you can make a difference again by coming to the February 22nd conference and participating in raffles. If you bring some cash, you can purchase tickets for the 50-50 raffle and the basket raffles. Also, you can contribute a basket for the raffle. Please consider putting together a club basket or one on your own and bring it with you to the conference; I'd greatly appreciate it! Please let me know if you can do so by calling me at 608-558-5868. Hope to see you soon at the conference in Brodhead, and thanks for continuing to support the Optimist International Foundation!

Wayne Dieckhoff
(608) 558-5868
wdadj@litewire.net

SWIS District 1st Quarter Conference

Madison Fitchburg Hotel
[Conference Highlights](#)

At the SWIS District 1st Quarter Conference in Fitchburg there was a 'roundtable' of sharing club ideas on recruiting, activating and maintaining members to serve more youth. These ideas have been summarized at this link: [SWIS Member Ideas](#).

It would be great if each club would take one or more of these ideas and coordinate it in their future planning.



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2019-2020

Optimist International Competitions

SWIS District Updates

https://swisdistrict.org/youth_programs/district_programs.asp



“Just iMagine a World without Boundaries”

OPEN

CCDHH Chair

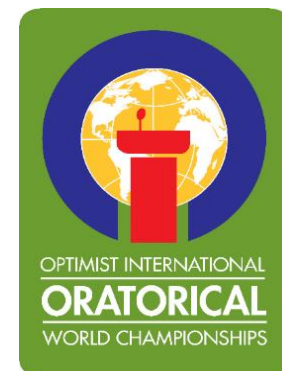
“Just iMagine a World without Boundaries”

Jo’El Pearlman

Oratorical Chair

eventplanner2000@hotmail.com

(262) 620-1588



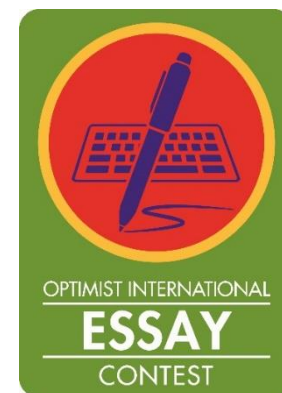
Is Optimism the Key to Achieving the Dreams you iMagine?

Gloria Sutter

Essay Chair

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Oratorical Contest: “Just iMagine a World Without Boundaries”

Imagine helping kids find their own voice! That is just what we as Optimists can do for the youth in our community by holding an Oratorical Competition. As an Oratorical Contestant, Students have an opportunity to win several scholarships by creating and presenting a 4-5 minute speech on the topic: “Just iMagine a World Without Boundaries”.

Students practice using many skills in their toolbox and are encouraged to listen to their inner voice- to be aware of their own ideas, and become comfortable discussing them with others. They practice patience, decision-making, memorization, and the ability to ask and accept feedback from their family, friends and other mentors along the way. Being an Oratorical contestant requires time and commitment from the student as well as their family as the student creates their speech, practices and presents their way through the competitions – learning and growing stronger in knowledge and experience on their journey to their personal goals and scholarship opportunities!

https://www.optimist.org/Forms/19-20_Oratorical_Application.pdf

https://www.optimist.org/Documents/programs/2020/2019-20_Oratorical_Club_Planning_Guide.pdf

By hosting an Oratorical contest in your community, your club provides kids with the opportunity to voice their own views on the topic of “Just iMagine a World Without Boundaries”, and share those views with other students and the world around them as they gain confidence, and compete to advance towards winning up to \$22,500 in Scholarships! (District Level Awards: \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000; Regional \$5,000, and World \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000) There is no minimum amount of students allowed to compete at the club level but we would like to reach as many young people as possible-so please take this time to spread the word for this exciting opportunity to all the young people in your community! Place an ad in your local newspaper, share the information on social media, post flyers in grocery stores, financial institutions, libraries, restaurants, student groups, religious institutions and remember your co-workers, neighbors, family and friends!

Remember to approach your local school board and let them know that our Optimist Oratorical Scholarship Program is recommended by both the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the American Association of School Administrators. This endorsement can go a long way when your Club is requesting that principals and teachers offer this program to their students.

*The 1st & 2nd Place Club Winners are usually awarded medallions and advance to the Zone Competition

*The 1st & 2nd Place Winners from the Zone Competition are usually awarded plaques and advance to the SWIS District Competition. The Winning Students are sponsored by their clubs, or, zones may choose to combine resources to sponsor the students advancing to the District competition. The sponsorship fee is \$225 per student.

(continues on pg 7)

Our SWIS District Competition and Scholarship Program Celebration is held during our 3rd Quarter Conference & Optimist Family Weekend in the Wisconsin Dells at the Kalahari Resort & Waterpark on May 8th & 9th 2020 where we will award the winners of the CCDHH, Essay and Oratorical competitions and celebrate the hard work of our Optimists, our students and families! Overnight accommodations for student & up to 3 family members for Friday, May 8th as well as the VIP information Session and Social, Saturday morning Welcome, and Celebration Luncheon are provided to District Oratorical Contestants, and the CCDHH and Essay Scholarship Program Winners.

SWIS District Awards

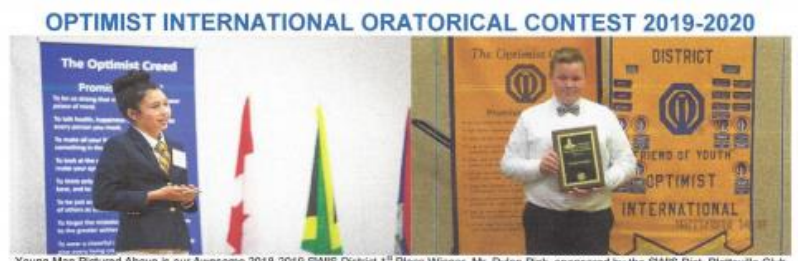
- 1st Place: \$2,500
- 2nd place: \$1,500
- 3rd place: \$1,000

****Note, students who were awarded 2nd or 3rd place scholarships in a SWIS District Oratorical Competition in the past and still meet the requirements for the 2019 – 2020 Optimist International Oratorical Competition **may compete** in this year’s Oratorical competition beginning at the club level. Students who were awarded with the 1st Place Oratorical Scholarship at the SWIS District Level are unable to return to compete in the SWIS District Oratorical competition 2019-2020.*

The SWIS District 1st Place Winner 2019-2020 Optimist Year advances to the Regional Competition in St. Louis July 15-17 (\$5,000 scholarship)

The Regional Winner of advances to the World Competition in St. Louis July 17 (\$15,000;\$10,000 & \$5,000 for third place).

For information, resources, or assistance for your club’s Oratorical Competition, please contact our Oratorical Team.



Young Man Pictured Above is our Awesome 2019-2019 SWIS District 1st Place Winner, Mr. Dytan Pink, sponsored by the SWIS Dist. Plattville Club

Topic- Just Imagine a World Without Boundaries

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. Past winners include many of our very own Optimist club members as well as teachers, actors, lawyers, doctors, mayors and even a Vice President of the USA!

The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking, self-confidence, and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

➤ **Plan Your Club Contest**

Getting the Contest Started in Your Community-Reach out to everyone & place flyers in grocery stores, 4H Clubs, libraries, your religious institution, and anywhere where students and their families might see it. Your Club may approach local schools to distribute information and coach interested students in preparation for the Club level contest. The program is recommended by both the **National Association of Secondary School Principals** and the **American Association of School Administrators**. This endorsement can go a long way when your Club is requesting that principals and teachers offer this program to their students. Reach out to the Department of Education to get contacts for home-schooled students. Contact local, private, everyone you contacted with a Club Member’s name and phone number.

➤ Advance your Club’s 1st & 2nd place winners to compete in your zone’s combined contest!

➤ Zone Contest’s 1st & 2nd place winners will then advance to our District Competition in the Wisconsin Dells on May 8 & 9th.
 Zone Winner’s paperwork & \$225 per contestant sponsorship fee must be received by the Dist. Chair by April 20th. The Contestant’s club is the sponsor of the student for the District competition fee. However, the Zone has the option to combine resources and sponsor both contestants advancing to the District competition in May. For additional resources please contact our District Oratorical team

➤ District Competition May 8 & 9th at the Kalahari Resort.
 Scholarships Will Be Awarded For District Winners:
 First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
 and a chance to win up to

➤ \$22,500 at the World Championships in St. Louis July 15-17th

For more information, on how your club can make a difference by helping children grow in confidence, leadership and outstanding experience, please visit the Optimist International Website https://optimist.org/Documents/programs/2020/2019-20_Oratorical_Club_Planning_Guide.pdf

**Additional SWIS District Specific Forms will also need to be completed by the Zone Winners advancing to the District (These will be provided to the Zone Winner by the Zone Oratorical Chair). Contact our SWIS District Oratorical Team at (262) 620-1588 for information, additional resources, and materials for your club.

District Tri-Star Basketball Update 2019-2020

We certainly hope most of your clubs have been planning for a local Tri-Star Basketball event with an eye toward sending a good representation to our District event on April 18, 2020 in Mukwonago at the Mukwonago High School.

As you may have heard, 2020 will be the last year that the Mukwonago Optimist Club will be hosting the event. We are speaking with a couple clubs to transition the project to moving forward so that we can continue to offer this district-wide event.

Materials for the District contest will be posted to the SWIS District website in the coming days and packets of the information are sent to each Club President to share with their Club/Coordinator.

Should you have any questions, interest in leading this event in the future or need additional information, you can contact either of us via email or phone.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing many of you and your delegation of competitors on April 18th in Mukwonago.

Yours in Optimism,

Joe Mundwiler

Cell: 414-416-6551

Email: jjmundwiler@centurylink.net

Amy Soleimani-Mafi

Cell: 608-436-1815

Email: amy.soleimani@gmail.com

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 2019-2020

Kurt Roskopf



The Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) is made available by the Optimist International Foundation, which offers programs that serve youth around the world. As clubs in the SWIS District, we can bring this opportunity to the youth who are deaf or hard of hearing across Southern Wisconsin. And you can be a significant aspect by passing along the contest application, hosting a local contest, and advertising wherever possible. Winners of the local contest are invited to participate in the SWIS District Contest (details listed below).

The 2019-2020 topic: “Just iMagine a World Without Boundaries”

If we have the means, let’s not deny students who are deaf or hard of hearing of this scholarship opportunity. Aside from the money, it is important to all of us that they be invited to the experience of the contest itself. We can give students the opportunity to express themselves, just like the oratorical contest. As with everything our clubs do, the information is entirely available through Optimist.org.

Thank you for everything you do as Optimists. Please do give CCDHH your deep and heartfelt consideration. I am here to help you with every detail that may seem to be of concern to you. No experience necessary.





See You Next Year!
June 28 – July 1, 2020

Make your hotel reservation for next year!
Visit optimist.org/convention

The sleeping room rate is \$128 plus applicable state and local taxes
(currently 15%) in effect at the time of check-out.



The Village of Schaumburg welcomes Optimist International in 2020!

LOCATED JUST UNDER 30 MILES (48 KM) NORTHWEST OF DOWNTOWN CHICAGO
13 MILES (21 KM) NORTHWEST OF O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
38 MILES (61 KM) NORTHWEST OF MIDWAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SCHAUMBURG IS THE PREMIER SUBURBAN BUSINESS DESTINATION IN ILLINOIS.

In the past 50 years with vision and thoughtful planning, Schaumburg has transformed from a small farming community into a thriving economic center that is home to more businesses in Illinois than any other community outside of Chicago. Attend a concert or visit the Farmers Market in the Town Square, take in theater and other shows at the Al Larson Prairie Center for the Arts, visit the Trickster Gallery (Native-owned and operated art gallery), discover family fun at LEGOLAND Discovery Center or enjoy minor league baseball at Boomers Stadium.



Follow the Conversation

Join the Optimist International 102nd event on the Optimist Facebook page
and tag all your convention posts with #OICONV2020.



[optimistintl](https://www.instagram.com/optimistintl)



[optimistorg](https://twitter.com/optimistorg)



[optimistintl](https://www.facebook.com/optimistintl)



[OptimistIntl](https://www.youtube.com/optimistintl)

Save the Date:
2020 Optimist International Convention
June 28 – July 1, 2020
Chicagoland, Illinois



Platteville Middle School Junior Optimist Club

Maxine Lane

Members of the Platteville Middle School Junior Optimist Club were busy 'Making Spirits Bright' during December. It started with a Penny War they organized with the school Builders Club and the school Social Worker in November, raising \$2,340.84. Proceeds were used in December to purchase food over the holiday break for students in need. The club also donated \$300 to the Platteville Middle School Giving Tree, again supporting needy families in the community. Finally as a bit of holiday fun, they purchased candy canes and handed them out to students and faculty as they left for the holiday break.

Platteville Optimist Club

Maxine Lane

As the dining services at UW-Platteville close down during the month of January, the UW-P Pioneer Basketball team remains on campus due to scheduled basketball games. However, they still have to eat!

For the past two years, Steve and Maxine Lane, along with other Pioneer Booster Club Members, have opened their home to the team of 22 'hungry' young men for a home cooked meal. This is accomplished with the help of Gary and Eileen Engelke and Becky Schambow, all members of the Platteville Optimist Club. The joint effort of these Optimists has provided tasty meals of open face chicken pot pie, lasagna, salads and always topped off with 3 choices of dessert. It is amazing what 22 young, vibrant, and energetic basketball players can eat! It is even more amazing the reward and feeling of gratification one gets from providing these young men a tasty meal with a down home atmosphere when they themselves cannot be home with their families.





Sun Prairie Optimist Club Maureen Crombie

The Sun Prairie Optimist club recently held their annual Pancake breakfast fundraiser with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. The Sun Prairie Orchestra played and the kids had an opportunity to make art projects. The Sun Prairie chapter of DECA, a leadership and marketing organization for high school students volunteered with the Sun Prairie Optimist members.



Happy Holidays from Optimist Clubs in the Milwaukee Area
Optimist Club of Milwaukee - Club President: Barb Brinkmann
Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club - Club President: Josh Zaidel



The Metro Milwaukee Optimist Club (MMOC) and the Optimist Club of Milwaukee (OCM) have been working together on bringing out the best in youth in the Milwaukee Community. In October, they hosted a “Trick or Treat for the Hungry,” where they collected food donations at Metro Market. Store patrons were handed a flyer with a list of requested items, which they purchased during their regular shopping trip and donated them to MMOC and OCM members on their way out. Members then boxed the food for Milwaukee families in need. Eighteen boxes of food were collected and raffled off at the Kosciuszko Community Center’s Family Night in November. OCM members volunteered at the event where families enjoyed a meal, did art projects and competed in friendly sporting events like relay races.

(continues on page 15)



MMOC and OCM member CoryAnn helped organize the South Shore Christmas parade in Cudahy which she invited members to be a part of including the Southwest Milwaukee Optimist Club in November. Members handed out to youth and their families in attendance.

In December, the clubs also volunteered at the Kosciuszko Community Center’s Breakfast with Santa. Families took photos with Santa, enjoyed a pancake breakfast, made ornaments and listened to holiday music. At the MMOC and OCM booth, youth could write letters to Santa, color pictures, get festive tattoos, and make felt hats. Thanks to Lieutenant Governor Rose Schwartz, for supplying and preparing the felt and helping the families put them together. For families in need, the hats were a practical gift disguised as a fun art project with cool designs. Two Saint Thomas More High School students also helped us at our booth. OCM also donated the presents that Santa gave out to all youth in attendance. We appreciate all of our volunteers for making the booth a well-visited and well-loved part of this event.

MMOC and OCM met the next day at the Best Place, in downtown Milwaukee, to respond to the letters to Santa that we collected. Since Santa is very busy this time of year, we elves like to help him out in writing letters. We also enjoyed a potluck lunch, a few beers and Green Bay Packers win against the Chicago Bears.



Club Fitness: How Fit is your Club?

Our society has changed over the years: We have over 50% of our children living with one parent, a guardian, a grandparent, or in foster care. We have children either in school or daycare while one or both parents work. With a busy family schedule, it is difficult to add another stop along the way. Therefore, recruiting parents to join an optimist club is not as easy as it once was. Each club must evaluate their club, their school, and their community. It is always a good idea to evaluate your club at least once per year, but I recommend more often than that. We can evaluate our clubs' health and sustainability by asking ourselves questions, and looking for new ways to grow our membership, our projects and our reach.

Membership: How many members are in your club? Clubs with less than 20 members may be at risk. Are club officers repeating? Repeating officers could mean lack of leadership talent and burnout. Does the club recruit on a regular basis? Clubs should always be looking for recruitment opportunities.

Funds: Are the fund raisers effective and efficient? Do we have members to cover the required hours? Are we a working club that raises money and gives it away?

Projects: How many projects does the club do and how many members attend on average? When was the last time a new program was added to the Club's service? Or an existing program updated? Have some projects run their course? Do we delete, modify or modernize?

Community: What are the demographics in our community? What is the culture? How can the Optimist Club begin to be inclusive to the cultures that represent our communities? How do we include the citizens of our community? How can we partner with the schools, other service clubs, churches, or other groups?

We need to think outside of the box. One suggestion is utilizing the Club within a Club concept; creating projects that add value to their membership rather than adding work. If there is a group that loves running (15 or more people), help them start an Optimist club. They can plan a run/walk to raise money for a project in their area. Also, there are successful video conferences and social media clubs across the world. They meet, plan and communicate using video, social media and other means of technology. They plan events, meet at the event one and done and then they celebrate.

Just iMagine a Society of Optimists celebrating their efforts in working with our kids and families in our communities by engaging, retaining members, adding members and keeping club rosters. Now is the time to REFRESH, REFURBISH and REVITALIZE within our clubs.

Maureen Crombie
Fitness Chair

Two Very Good Reasons

John Fons

I want to give each one of you two very good reasons for being who you are as Optimists. Each one of you already has reasons of your own to be helpful, to be public minded and spirited in your efforts as volunteer Friends of Youth.

Here are two more.

I recently purchased a two volume biography of the man who is arguably the most famous personage in Wisconsin political history. He is Robert Marion LaFollette, "Fighting Bob" as he came to be known, born June 14, 1855 on a Dane County farm near Primrose, Wisconsin and died June 18, 1925. He is buried in Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery. A champion of common causes and common citizens, his wife and daughter who wrote his biography are buried beside him and his grave has been desecrated.

That's right.

Go to Forest Hill Cemetery to view the final resting place of Wisconsin's beloved native son, the honest country lawyer who served as State Governor and US Senator and Presidential candidate of the Progressive Movement and you will find letters of his name broken off from his grave marker by what appears to be the use of a cold chisel and hammer.

That's reason Number One.

Reason Number Two comes from last week's 1st Quarter SWIS District conference in Fitchburg where eighty or so Optimists gathered to speak and listen about the future of Optimism and encourage one another in doing good for their clubs and their communities.

In the very next room of the hotel where we Optimists met another meeting was being conducted behind closed doors, but those doors were made of glass so if you happened to walk by in the hallway you could see what the other meeting was about.

It was attended by thirty or forty adults who paid very close attention to a speaker as he stood before a large projection screen. So while we as Optimists applauded and laughed together in one room, those people were nearby silently taking notes in deadly earnest.

They were learning about the use and function of spring loaded magazines for hand guns and the application of lethal force in use of firearms.

The Optimist Creed begins, "Promise Yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind."

So be it.

Just be sure your Optimism is working, because the world is giving us two more very good reasons why it must.

Twenty-Five Stars John Fons

We have a tradition at our home this time of year. On December first, I put a star in our yard and another star in the yard north, south, east and west all around our house every day of the month until Christmas Eve. Then the twenty-fourth star goes up accompanied by the grandest star of all, hundreds of multi-colored lights on a wooden framework hoisted high into a tree in front of our home. All the other stars of various heights are staked to the ground, each star twinkling with clear bright lights.

I use untold feet of wire and numerous junction boxes, all connected to one 30 amp circuit breaker in the garage. With one flip of the switch, I set our electric meter twirling merrily in anticipation of our monthly greeting from the power company. Each night we leave the stars burning all night. We sometimes leave the stars on throughout the day if the winter sun remains hidden or even better during snowstorms that add a special quiet luster.

Not everyone appreciates our stars. Some people stare down into a small screen as they walk by our home with ear buds nestled all snug in their ears or their heads bowed to pay homage to the small patch of pavement in front of their feet. They never look up. Yet others are quite effusive. They look far ahead. They began weeks ago asking if the stars would go up again this year. The answer we gratefully gave and they so graciously receive is Yes.

Our stars declare no creed or denomination. They are stars. They are constructed of primed lumber, pin lights bought on clearance and a few nuts and bolts. Their brilliance makes our street corner of the world a declaration of hope. At this or any other season of the year, our stars are a celebration of optimism.



Dear SWIS District Optimists,

This holiday season, we would like to thank SWIS Optimist Clubs for giving to and supporting students and youth in your communities, including giving to and supporting sophomore students an opportunity to attend Wisconsin Leadership Seminars (WILS).

We at WILS provide an outlet for outstanding sophomores to gain confidence, learn more about themselves, and develop their leadership skills. Students can take what they learned back to their schools and communities and implement these skills in their daily lives. They often become more involved in their schools and also volunteer in their, and **your**, communities!

WILS is proud that we can offer this leadership camp to hundreds of students every year at **no cost to the schools or attendees**. This would not be possible without the hard work of our 100% volunteer organization and the generous support from organizations like the Optimist Clubs.

Students in your area rely upon donations from service organizations like Optimists to be able to attend WILS. **We are writing to you to request that you keep WILS in mind during your club's holiday giving season.**

Thank you, SWIS Optimist Clubs, for your past support and we ask that you keep us in mind during your next budget discussions. I have included a one page description of WILS to provide some more information along with a donation form if your organization would like to sponsor a student.

If you would like more information about sponsoring a student, WILS, or the 2020 WILS seminar, please visit our website at www.wils.us or contact me via email at optimists@wils.us or at my cell phone number listed below. I would be privileged to have a discussion about WILS, WILS's mission and pillars, and how generously giving to WILS provides a life-changing opportunity to students in your communities.

Thank you for your consideration and for all you do for youth in your communities!

Sincerely,

Rachel Schumacher
WILS Board of Directors, Optimist Club Lead
414-915-0752
optimists@wils.us
www.wils.us

Adrian Elcock

Optimist International President
2019-2020

[A look back the on 2018-2019 Optimist Year](#)



[Adrian's October Message](#)

Be sure to check out Optimist International's Youtube page for video updates from Optimist International.

SWIS District 2019-2020 Lieutenant Governors



Zone 1

Lieutenant Governor: Rose Schwartz
rschwartz24@wi.rr.com
(262) 246-6390

Zone 6
Lieutenant Governor: Eileen Engelke
eengelke52@yahoo.com
608-732-6663



Zone 4

Lieutenant Governor: Carol Esser
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Zone 7
Lieutenant Governor: John Fons
jefons@aol.com
661-917-0850



Zone 5

Lieutenant Governor: Philip Sheahan
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Zone 8
Lieutenant Governor: Fred Dorn
fdorn476@gmail.com
608-849-5290



SWIS District Governor's Team 2019-2020



Christine Dieckhoff
Governor

Maureen Crombie
Past Governor,
Fitness Chair

Maxine Lane
Governor Elect

Monica Titley
District Secretary

Howard Crofoot
District Treasurer

Joanne Ganske
OI Ambassador



Vern Andren
Leadership Dev.
Co-Chair

Wayne Dieckhoff
OI Foundation
Representative

Jeffery Kuchenbecker
Finance Committee

Amanda Szymkowski
Newsletter Editor

Bonnie Spindler
Website Chair



Amy Soleimani-Mafi
Tri-Star Co-Chair

- Maxine Lane:** Governor Elect
- Jo'El Pearlman:** Conference Chair, Oratorical Chair
- Tom Carls:** Junior Golf Chair; **Carl Trapp:** Hospitality Chair
- Open:** CCDHH & Activities Chair; **Gloria Sutter:** Essay Chair
- Joe Mundwiler:** Tri-Star Basketball Chair; **Richard Vogel:** Membership
- Barb Brinkman:** Leadership Development Chair
- Vern Andren:** New Club Building **Liz Vanetta:** New Club Building Chair

Visit the SWIS District Website today!

www.swisdistrict.org

Bonnie Spindler

Chair, SWIS District Website

blspindler@charter.net

(608) 850-9561



District Newsletters



Youth Programs



Conferences



District/Club Events

'Imagine: Serving children in a changing world'

Christine Dieckhoff
SWIS Governor 2019 - 2020

Leadership Tools Optimist Clubs Youth Programs District Conferences Resources/Information

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- Succeeding As A Leader
- Newsletters
- Past Governors
- District Positions Available
- Leaderboard

Optimist Clubs

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- Featured Club
- Join, Donate or Participate
- Club/District Events Calendar

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- Past Conference Information

Resources/Information

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- Optimist/Public Resources
- District Officers
- OI Officers
- Optimist Regions

The 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 to 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.



Thank you to everyone who contributed articles to this edition of the SWIS District Newsletter. Please send me your club stories, district and zone events, committee updates, member acknowledgments, and other articles that you would like to contribute. I will gladly accept them at anytime. Thank you!

Amanda Szymkowski
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