



Official News Bulletin of the Michigan District of Optimist International

I Believe...

Children Are Our Future

Karen Monville

MI District Governor

First, I'd like to thank Governor Marc and his team for a great Convention at Treetops! The convention, as usual, was filled with outstanding training sessions, memorable fellowship opportunities, and great camaraderie.

This year, Optimist International President, Yves Berthiaume's has chosen **"I Believe"** as his theme for the 2004-2005 Optimist Year. In conjunction, I have chosen **"Children Are Our Future"** as the MI District theme. Unlike our recent Past Governors, I do not have an alma mater or favorite college. Therefore, I plan to celebrate Optimism the all-American way by displaying red, white, and blue throughout my year as Governor (in case you hadn't already noticed).

This year, Optimist International provided each District with a full-color International banner. As you will soon see, our International banner will be displayed along side the 2004-2005 MI District banner at each District Meeting. After looking at this banner and seeing the many smiling faces of youth everywhere, I'm reminded of our mission and of what our focus really is — working with youth in our communities. I truly **do** believe that children are our future. We need to work with each of them and help them to be the best that they can be.

Optimist International will continue the "Just Ask" campaign for the 2004-2005 year in order to recruit new members. In addition to adding new

members and building new clubs, we will also focus on member retention this year. **"I Believe"** it's important to let you know, as members, what your Optimist membership and involvement can do for you, not just what you can do for Optimist International.

President Yves is also encouraging everyone to think outside-the-box by looking for new and different ways of handling club projects and youth serving activities. One significant change we will see this year is with the Rewards and Recognition Program. The requirements for Honor Club Status at the International level are to be +1 in membership by September 30, 2005 and to have fulfilled all club financial obligations. Clubs can achieve Gold Honor Status by meeting Honor Club requirements plus having a representative present at the 2005 International Convention in New Orleans. We will also have our own Honor Status recognition within the MI District. This is to recognize those clubs that not only meet the International requirements for Honor Club but also, submit Club Officer-Elect Reports and Annual Activities Reports on time; Club President or a designee attends 75 percent of District meetings; and completes three service projects.

I'm pleased to announce that President Yves will be attending our First Quarter District Meeting in Lansing, November 5-7, 2004.

(Continued on Page 2)

What's Inside

Page 2

Secretary-Treasurer Message

Page 3

Foundation Info

Page 4

Governor-Elect Message

Pages 5

Convention Info & Membership

Pages 6-7

District Meeting Registration & Housing Forms

Page 8

Optimist International President Bio

Page 9-10

Scrapbook Winners & Optimist Programs

Page 11

Optimists In Action



October/November/
December 2004
Volume 25/Number 1



From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

Linda Ingersoll
MI District Secretary-Treasurer

The 2004-2005 Optimist Administrative year has begun and I am looking forward to helping you in your roles as Secretaries and Treasurers by providing helpful information as well as answering your questions. Additional Secretary-Treasurer training will be held at the First Quarter District Meeting.

The start of a new year is the perfect time to review your club's past successes and set its future goals. Club Secretaries and Treasurers have the awesome responsibility of supporting their club by keeping the financial obligations paid and the records current. For those of you who are new to this role, take the time and review the materials that have been provided. Please reach out to myself as well as others who have had this role in the past with questions. We can share some organizational tips that could make your

duties easier and more manageable. For those of you who are returning to this role, my challenge to you is to make one positive change in your processes to become more efficient.

I Believe...together we can have a very successful year. I am available to answer questions and provide you with support for your club's success. I look forward to hearing from you.

Linda Ingersoll
536 Green Street
South Haven, MI 49090
Phone: (269) 639-1871
Fax: (269) 639-8951
Email: lingersoll@i2k.com

“Making a Difference. Yes We Did!”

Marc D. Katz
Immediate Past Governor

The 2003-2004 Optimist year has come to a close and all of you are to be congratulated on the outstanding job you did with the youth in your communities. There were so many wonderful club projects conducted and so many new people who became Optimist members. New Optimist Clubs were started in communities where no clubs existed and now youth in those communities can be served for many years. Congratulations to the Optimist Clubs, Club Presidents and Lt. Governors that earned Honor and Distinguished status. I look forward to the MI District Regional Meetings in February when we can celebrate the success of the 2003-2004, “Yes We Can” year.

Now, I must thank all of you for the support you gave me throughout my year as Governor. The MI District is better served because

of all of you as Optimist members. What an experience it was visiting all of your clubs and learning about the many unique things you do in your communities. You truly do make a difference in the lives of children! I will remember this year as one of the best years of my life and I look forward to seeing the continued success each of your clubs has to offer, as well as hearing and seeing all of the work you do to benefit the youth.

Finally, I'd like to say good luck and best wishes to Governor Karen as she begins the, “I Believe”, “J'y crois” year. I know that each and every one of you will continue to support the MI District, it's leaders and most importantly the youth in your communities.

Thanks again for the wonderful memories!

I Believe... (Continued from Page 1)

I encourage everyone to attend and meet this devoted, energetic Optimist. Our District Meetings are for all members, not just club officers. If you've attended a District Meeting before, bring someone from your club who has not attended. If you haven't attended before, plan to attend. **I Believe** you will find that your time will be well-spent with all of the trainings, inspiration and fellowship that these meetings offer.



Finally, President Yves has challenged all of the Districts to build a new Club by October 31, 2004. Are we up to the challenge??? **“I Believe”** we can accomplish this, do you?

Thanks again to all of you who have volunteered to serve on District Committees and to those of you who have already offered so much support. Dana and I look forward to working with each of you throughout the year. **“I Believe”** that by working together we will have a great year for the Michigan District.

Optimist Foundation Information

Ben Lowery

MI District Foundation Representative 2003-2004

We did it! The MI District had the best year ever in 2003-2004 for raising money for the Optimist International Foundation. I would like to thank each and every one of you and your clubs for your continued support and donations this past year. I only ask that you give Past Governor Fatima the same devotion this year, as you have given to me last year.

I would also like to ask those of you who write checks to please put your club number and membership number on the checks that you submit. This helps us to process your checks faster and ensures that the correct member and club are credited for the donation. Finally, please make all checks payable to Optimist International Foundation and if needed put CCC, Pave the Way or JOOI on the

memo line. That is all, please do not put 50/50 or raffle on your check. If you do not know your club or membership numbers, you can find this information on the address label attached to the Optimist International Magazine that you receive quarterly.

Although my role as Foundation Representative is over, I will be assisting Past Governor Fatima with the 2004-2005 Pave the Way Campaign. She has some fun and exciting things planned for the year - so get ready. For a preview of upcoming Optimist Foundation events, read the article below. Remember, all your Foundation dollars go to helping youth in our communities. Can you spare a dime?

I Believe...

Fatima Plater

MI District Foundation Representative

"I Believe" is the International Theme for the 2004-2005 Optimist Year. I also feel it represents our district's continued financial support of the Optimist Foundation. I know that we will build on the 2003-2004 record breaking year of giving, because as Governor Karen states, "The children are our future."

Your contributions, both club and individual, make it possible for the Optimist Foundation to provide scholarships, new member materials, grants for club projects, pass-through grants and much more.

This year our District has an Optimist Foundation Committee that is ready and willing to speak at club and zone meetings regarding the Foundation. It is made up of: Past Governor Ben Lowery, Past Lt. Governor Doris Modrak, Past Governor Harry Margo, Immediate Past Governor Marc Katz and Lt. Governor Jerry Tolbert. We'll be easy to recognize at the First Quarter Meeting in our **stylish hats**.

Our committee has agreed to have fun, while working hard to double the President's Club memberships and to continue the dime a day (\$36.50) program. Those who participate will also receive **special pins**. These clubs and individuals along with those who donate to the District Silent Auctions will receive A&A points too.

The Optimist Foundation Committee has many great activities and incentives planned for the 2004-2005 year. Show your support

and participate! We are planning a Celebrity Golf Outing to take place in May 2005 and the club that donates the most Dime a Day **individual** donations by the end of the First Quarter will receive **one free registration** for the Optimist International Convention in New Orleans. We will also continue to have 50/50 Raffles at each District Meeting and accept club and individual checks throughout the year.

Foundation fun will begin at the First Quarter Meeting in Lansing at the Holiday Inn. Our committee is sponsoring a special **Theme Basket Contest** and each club is encouraged to participate. District Meeting attendees will vote by monetary donation for their favorite basket. The three baskets with the highest amount of donations will determine the winners and awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be presented to these clubs. Contest Rules are as follows: items must be in a basket and the interior items and the exterior of the basket must be related to a theme selected by the club. When submitting your basket, please include a typed description of the basket items, it's theme, the total value of the basket and the club's name. In addition to the contest, we will also be auctioning off all baskets at the First Quarter Meeting with all proceeds going to the Optimist Foundation.

If you have further questions or want to donate a basket, please contact me at (313) 393-4859 or optimisticwoman@yahoo.com.



Optimists Are Amazing People

Don Brose

MI District Governor-Elect

If you are reading this today, you are a special human being. You are among the 4,100 finest people in Michigan. You make an impact on the lives of others and work hard to serve youth and your communities on a daily basis.

Whether you've been an Optimist for less one year or one for over 40 years, you've touched many lives. Some of these young people, you've had a chance to meet, while others may have been touched indirectly through Childhood Cancer Campaign activities, college scholarships or youth facilities. No matter what the project, you continue to work to serve youth. You don't get paid to serve as you do...in fact you pay to serve as you do. You are an Optimist...we are Optimists. We believe in the future and somehow continue to serve others each day.

We can never underestimate the talents, achievements, and potential of our members. We commit to serving day after day, month after month, year after year. We are amazing people. When we

tell others about who we are, we're simply stating the facts. There's much more to an Optimist as most of us know.

Together, we'll be supporting Governor Karen this year. I believe 2004-2005 will be an outstanding Optimist year not only for us as Optimists, but for the many youth we'll serve.

I'm proud that I'll be given the opportunity to spread the word of Optimism. I thank everyone for their confidence and support as I prepare for my role as 2005-2006 Governor throughout this year. Although that is a year from now, I plan on meeting as many of you as possible and building my leadership team. Please don't be shy about stepping forward to help, every Optimist is welcome. If interested in serving at the District Level during the 2005-2006 year, please contact me via my business phone (248) 623-7900, my home phone (248) 391-3075, my email: broseelectric@msn.com or my website www.broseelectric.com.

I wish you good health, good business, and good service.

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?

Dan Moss

Northwest Macomb Optimist Club

If you haven't made plans yet to attend the First Quarter District Meeting in Lansing, it is suggested you do so at your earliest opportunity. You may be asking yourself, "What makes this meeting any more special than all the others I hear about?"

Well, the fact that it is Governor Karen's first official District Meeting as our new Governor should be reason enough, but we've gone and did you one better. Not only is Governor Karen and First Man Dana going to put on a spectacular meeting, but our **International President Yves Berthiaume** will be in attendance!

That's right, our International President will be at our First Quarter District Meeting in Lansing! It is not often that a District gets to host an International President at a district event, but our International President selected the MI District as his choice to spend some quality time with Optimist Members who not only "talk" about Optimism, but members who actually "LIVE" Optimism, as well.

What a wonderful tribute to the MI District. In return, it is hoped that Michigan Optimists will return the favor by turning out in huge numbers to pay tribute to the man who will be leading us into the next "awakening" of volunteerism throughout the world.



President Berthiaume has served as a member of the Optimist Club of Hawkesbury, Ontario, Canada since 1976. He served as their president in the 1980-1981 Optimist Year and was selected as their "Member of the Year" twice. Among his accomplishments he holds the title of "Distinguished and Outstanding Governor," and holds the record in his district for the most New Optimist Clubs built in 1 year. The record for the percentage of clubs attaining "Honor Club" status stands at 92.8 percent, and it was Yves Berthiaume as the Governor of the Eastern Ontario District who achieved and set the record. That was during the 1990-1991 Optimist year and the record still stands to this day!

This is the man to lead us at this time and in this place. He is charged with inspiring our District Governors and the members of Optimist International with the task of spreading Optimism throughout the world in new, different, and fun ways. He truly has a vision which will help inspire all who dare to spend time with him.

So please come out and help the MI District pay tribute to the leader of this great organization, and help Governor Karen kick off the beginning of another great year in Optimism. This is definitely a meeting you won't want to miss! See you in November.

First Quarter Meeting Details

Jeanna Clifford and Terry Sabo
MI District Convention Co-Chairs

This year our First Quarter District Meeting will be held November 5th, 6th, and 7th at the Lansing Holiday Inn. Please register early to reserve your spot! There are a lot of great breakout sessions whether you are a new Club President, Secretary-Treasurer, Club Committee Chair or Optimist Club Member.

Are you a Club President wondering how to conduct your first Board Meeting? What about a Secretary-Treasurer who needs assistance with all the necessary paperwork? Would your club like to run a Tri-Star Sports Program, conduct an Oratorical Contest or take part in the Optimist International Junior World of Golf Competition, but aren't sure where to start? If you've answered yes to any of the above questions or are interested in any of the trainings

listed on the Registration Form on Page 6, you won't want to miss this meeting. Many MI District Leaders will be there to guide you and answer your questions on these items and more. What better way to learn about these programs and update your club on some of the great programs Optimist International offers.

District Meetings are also for fun and fellowship. Polly Thomas, Hospitality Chairperson will be hosting the Hospitality Room on Friday Evening from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Come join your fellow optimists for great conversation, beverages and snacks. This is an excellent opportunity to learn what other clubs are doing, share your ideas and meet new people.

A Message From Dana "First Man" Monville

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since Karen was elected Governor-Elect and that it is now time for me to take over the duties of Spouse Activities Chairperson from Past MI District First Lady Mary Lowery, who served in this role for Immediate Past Governor Marc Katz. Mary has graciously volunteered to step forward and give me a helping hand. With Mary's help, I Believe we will have a program that not only will be educational but enjoyable.

At the spouse's breakfast on Saturday morning, Optimist International First Lady Ginette Berthiaume will give us her view point on what it's like being the First Lady. Then we will visit the Michigan Historic Museum in Lansing, which will provide Ginette (and the rest of us) a little history of our great state. From there, we will go to Clara's Union Station for lunch (at your own expense). After lunch we will return to the hotel where everyone will be on their

own to pursue whatever they wish for the afternoon — from great shopping at the new mall to relaxation before the evening's festivities.

Past President Bonnie Weber from the Reese Optimist Club has volunteered to coordinate the youth activities, both during the day and in the evening on Saturday. The day's activities will start at 9:30 a.m. to attend the Impression 5 Science Center followed by lunch. They will then head to Potter Park Zoo for the afternoon returning to the hotel at approximately 3:00 p.m. The children will then gather in the hospitality room at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and activities. The cost for all of this will be \$10 per child.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Lansing and sharing in the many activities we have planned.

Membership Growth

Betty J. Howard
MI District Membership Chair

Can you change your world? **"Just Ask!"** I believe the change will do you and your community good! We can double the size of Optimist International membership in 30 days just by having one member get a new member. **"Just Ask/Member-Get-A-Member."**

Now is the time to conduct a membership drive. Membership drives can play an important role in sustaining Optimist International and

to help carry out its mission which is, "...to foster an optimistic way of life, through a network of optimists, dedicated to the full development of their potential in order to provide ever-expanding service to youth, the community and the world."

Just Ask/Member-Get-A-Member



MI District First Quarter Meeting Information

Call or send your reservations: **Holiday Inn South/Convention Center**
6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: 517-694-8123 or 1-800-333-8123

When you call in your reservations please tell the reservationist that you are with the Optimists!

Lansing Holiday Inn South

Located at 6820 South Cedar Street in Lansing. Immediately off I-96 at Exit 104 (Holt/Cedar Street). It's only minutes away from downtown Lansing, the State Capitol Building, and Michigan State University.

Hotel Reservation Form

Group Name: Optimists - Michigan District
(Please make reservations by October 28, 2004)

Check-In Date: _____ **Check-Out Date:** _____

Room Requests:

Single Room @ \$90.00 per night + tax (6% sales tax, 5% hotel tax)

Double Room @ \$90.00 per night + tax (6% sales tax, 5% hotel tax)

Smoking Preference: Smoking Non-Smoking

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Guaranteed Reservation

All reservations must be guaranteed. Include first night's deposit (plus 11% tax) to confirm reservations or use your American Express, Master Card, Visa, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, or Discover credit card 1-800-333-8123.

Arrival Date: _____ **Departure Date:** _____

Cash Deposit (1 night): \$ _____ (include with reservation)

or Credit Card Type: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on card): _____

Signature: _____

* Check-In Time 3:00 p.m.

* Check-Out Time 12:00 Noon

From Points North (Macinac Island and Traverse City): Take 27 South to I-69 East to 127 South to I-96 West (Grand Rapids) Exit. Follow I-96 to Lansing Exit 104 (Cedar Street/Holt) and turn left at the light (Pennsylvania Avenue). Go through two lights (2 blocks) and at the 3rd light (S. Cedar Street), turn left under viaduct. The Holiday Inn South will be on your right.

From Points North-East (Flint, Saginaw, Bay City): Take 69 West to 127 South to 96 West (Grand Rapids) Exit. Take Exit 104 (Cedar Street/Holt) and turn left at the light (Pennsylvania Avenue). Go through two lights (2 blocks) and at the 3rd light (S. Cedar Street), turn left under the viaduct. The Holiday Inn South will be on your right.

From Points East (Detroit, Canada): Take I-96 West to Lansing Exit 104 (Cedar Street/Holt) and turn left at the light. Go through two lights (2 blocks) and at the 3rd light (S. Cedar Street), turn left under the viaduct. The Holiday Inn South will be on the right.

From Points South (Cleveland, Toledo): Take U.S. 23 North to I-96 to Lansing Exit 104 (Cedar Street/Holt) and turn left at the light (Pennsylvania Avenue). Go through two lights (2 blocks) and at the 3rd light (S. Cedar Street), turn left under the viaduct. The Holiday Inn South will be on your right.

From Points South-West (Kalamazoo, Battle Creek): Take I-94 East to 69 North. Follow 69 North to I-96 to Exit 104 (Cedar Street/Holt) and turn left at the light (Pennsylvania Avenue). Go through two lights (2 blocks) and at the 3rd light (S. Cedar Street), turn left under the viaduct. The Holiday Inn South will be on your right.

From Points West (Grand Rapids, Muskegon): Take I-96 East to Lansing Exit 104 (Cedar Street/Holt) and turn left at the light (Pennsylvania Avenue). Go through two lights (2 blocks) and at the 3rd light (S. Cedar Street), turn left under the viaduct. The Holiday Inn South will be on your right.

Introducing Our International President

Yves Berthiaume

2004-2005 Optimist International President

Personal Data

Spouse: Ginette

Children: Lysane, Marie-Lyne, Catherine

Occupation

- Co-Owner, President & CEO, Salon Funéraire Berthiaume Itée/Ltd. (3 Funeral Homes)
- Shareholder & CEO, Various Real Estate Development Enterprises

Professional/Civic/Trade Information

- President, Ontario Funeral Services Association (2002-03)
- Founder & Chair of the Committee on Death and Loss Education Program for the Ontario School System (2001-02)
- Chair, Public Awareness Committee of the Ontario Funeral Service Association (1998-00)

Education

- Graduate, Department of Funeral Services, Humber College, Toronto
- Licensed Funeral Director, 1977

Optimist International Service

Club Level

Optimist Club of Hawkesbury ON (1976-present) (Life Member)

- Chair, Literary Essay Committee (1992-00)
- Chair, Nevada, Junior Golf & Bicycle Safety Committee (1992-93)
- Chair, Membership Committee (1986-87)
- Chair, Committee for Distribution of Gifts to Underprivileged Children (1984-85)
- Member of the Year; 1979-80 & 1981-82
- President; 1980-81
- Vice President; 1979-80

District Level

Eastern Ontario District

- Distinguished & Outstanding Governor; 1990-91 (International President's Award)
- Set record for most New Clubs in District (12 total - all personally involved with) (still the record)
- Set record for 92.8 percent Honor Clubs
- Chair, Community Album Committee; 1988-89
- Chair, Leadership Development Committee; 1987-88
- Chair, Public Speaking Committee; 1981-82 & 1986-87
- Chair, Junior Golf Championships; 1984-85
- Distinguished & Outstanding Lieutenant Governor; 1983-84



International Level

- Certified Trainer 2004
- Member, International Development Committee; 1991-92 & 2002-03
- Chair, Finance Committee; 1999-02
- Member, Strategic Planning Committee; 1996-98 & 1999-00
- Chair, Strategic Planning Committee; 1998-99
- Vice President; 1994-96
- Member, Membership Committee; 1992-94
- Member, International Relations Committee; 1991-92



Get On Our Email List!!!

If you'd like to receive the OptiViews early or be reminded of upcoming events send an email with your name, club name and email address to: hhamil@wowway.com



Congratulations Scrapbook Winners

Ann Hamilton

MI District Scrapbook Chair 2004-2005

Your District Officers encourage every club to maintain a scrapbook as a fitting memento to the activities conducted during the administrative year as a tribute to the Club President.

Among other reasons for compiling a scrapbook are the buses as a recruiting tool during membership programs and guide for future administrations. The club scrapbook also possesses inherent historical value for the club and community.

Scrapbook rules/criteria are listed in the MI District Directory. Each year, scrapbooks are judged before noon at the MI District Convention and winners are announced later that afternoon.

The 2003-2004 judging committee consisted of Juanita Bryant, Margaret Rollinger, Heather Hamilton, Wilfred "Knobby" Walsh and myself, Ann Hamilton. All entries were of extremely high caliber and the final decisions were very difficult to make. Considering we have over 110 Optimist Clubs in the MI District and only had a dozen entries, we encourage more clubs to participate in the future.

The 2003-2004 Scrapbook Winners were:

Division 1 - *Clubs with membership of 25 or less*
Greater Muskegon

Division 2 - *Clubs with membership of 26-39*
Northwest Macomb

Division 3 - *Clubs with membership of 40-59*
No Entries

Division 4 - *Clubs with membership of 60 or more*
Clinton Township Area & Roseville (tied)

Division 5 - *Open Category. Doesn't need to follow entry criteria but must be complete.*
No Entries

Grand Prize - *For Overall District Winner. Must follow entry criteria and be complete.*
West Branch

2004-2005 District Meeting Locations

First Quarter District Meeting

November 5-7, 2004
Holiday Inn - South Conference Center
6820 Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911

Second Quarter Regional Meetings

Regions 1 and 2
February 5, 2005
Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor
939 Third Street
Muskegon, MI 49440

Regions 3 and 4
February 19, 2005
Best Western Concord Inn
44315 Gratiot Avenue
Clinton Township, MI 48036

Third Quarter District Meeting

May 13-15, 2005
Holiday Inn Livonia West
17123 Laurel Park Drive
Livonia, MI 48152

MI District Convention

August 26-28, 2005
Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center
Bay City Riverfront
One Wenonah Park Place
Bay City, MI 48708

**Remember, District Meetings
are for everybody!**

Optimist International Programs

Optimist International
www.optimist.org

Optimist International Oratorical Contest

The Optimist Oratorical Contest gives youngsters the chance to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college scholarships are awarded annually from this program.

First conducted in 1928, this is the second most popular Optimist International Program. Nearly 2,000 clubs participate in this program each year. The winners at the Club level receive medallions and Zone winners receive a plaque. Districts have the opportunity to provide two \$1,500 scholarships or a first place scholarship of \$1,500, a second place scholarship of \$1,000, and a third place scholarship of \$500.

The 2004-2005 Topic is “**My Hero Is...**” Who’s eligible? Students under the age of 16 years as of December 31 of the 2004-2005 school year and who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean.

District Chair: Sheryl Mitchell (248) 788-7512 - home phone

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

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

The 2004-2005 Topic is “**My Hero Is...**” Who’s eligible? Youth through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Quebec and grade 13 in the Caribbean who are recognized by their school as deaf or hard of hearing.

District Chair: Richard Bloom (248) 353-8115 - work phone

Optimist International Essay Contest

This is the fourth most popular program among Optimists with over 1,200 Clubs participating in 2002. The Essay contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person’s personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship of up to \$5,000! The essay contest awards \$44,000 annually in scholarships.



The 2004-2005 Topic is “**The Power of One**”. Who’s eligible? Youth under the age of 19 as of December 31 of the current school year.

District Chair: Bernice Parker (313) 934-3134 - home phone

New Club Building

Club Building’s primary goal is to build and develop Clubs (people) that contribute to the betterment of your community with a focus on youth development. While Optimists are all about youth, we are proud to tell you about the added benefits of leadership, fellowship and personal development.

Optimist International understands that people join a Club for different reasons, the number one reason people join organizations is “intangible benefits.” People join for that good feeling. Optimist International recognizes diversity and time limitations of today’s population. Different Club models are offered as alternatives and we’re optimistic that one might be a Club your looking to build.

Traditional Club - Optimist Clubs annually conduct many exciting youth-oriented special events and promotions.

Sports Club - Built with the primary goal to serve youth through athletics, be it baseball, golf, tennis, basketball, soccer or hockey.

Non-Traditional Club - Built around a single focus. While these Clubs have officers, etc, they meet via electronic newsletter and e-mail, since most members are located throughout North America.

Associate Club - Organized in a country, which is economically depressed, and where the members cannot afford to pay full dues. Associate Clubs must complete a proposal form, be officially approved by Optimist International and paired with a Sponsor Club in the U.S., Canada or the Caribbean.

Twin Club - Two Clubs from different countries that decide to start a two-way exchange of newsletters, gifts and visits.

JOOI Club - Junior Optimist Octagon International is the youth organization with ages ranging from 6-18. JOOI members develop leadership skills, learn about teamwork, citizenship, communication and organization.

District Chair - New Club Building: Lovelis Patrick
(313) 863-4023 - home phone

District Chair - JOOI Clubs: Lovelis Gaita
(248) 276-0263 - home phone

District Chair - International Relations: Dr. Jerry Kelly
(734) 434-8272 - home phone

Optimists In Action

Anna Lamer
Editor

First, thank you to all of our fine Optimist Cubs for allowing me to be your Optimists In Action Editor this past year. It was quite a pleasure for me to learn about the many wonderful things each of your clubs do as well as to share them with the rest of the District. Keep up the great work!!!

The Roseville Optimists have been working hand in hand with the Roseville Fire Department to insure safety for children using car seats. When car seats viewed by state certified inspectors were found to be unsafe, families who couldn't afford to purchase safe ones on their own were provided them with the \$500 donated by **The Roseville Optimist Club**. This is a continuing project between the community Optimists and the Fire Department in order to make child car seat safety a priority.

After raising monies from various activities, **The Optimist Club of Saginaw** presented \$500 to Carrol Cottrell for July fireworks and another \$315 for the Roy Grueber Memorials.

"Parties in the Park" was a huge success for **The Evening Optimist Club of Greater Muskegon**. Not only was there much food, fun, and entertainment, but a \$2,000 check was presented to the club for its participation.

The Alpena Optimist Club was once again successful with giving 757 children the chance to fish and catch a rainbow trout at their "Culligan Plaza Kids Free Fishing."

St. Tom Seyfried, who will be completing his 25th year with the Ann Arbor Police Department was honored for being a truly outstanding officer and gentleman by **The Breakfast Optimist Club of Ann Arbor**.

Members of **The Anchor Bay Optimist Club** were busy this past quarter with a golf outing, a garage sale and a Spring flower sale in order to donate bicycle helmets to the Chesterfield Police for their bike rodeo.

Sell, sell, sell is just what **The Royal Oak Optimist Club** did with the Ryder Cup raffle tickets. When all was said and done, they came away with a profit of at least \$2,700.

The Mason Breakfast Optimist Club continued to raise funds for Angel House this past quarter and with the dedicated fundraising

efforts of Shirley Grieve, the club received over \$1,200 in pledges. In addition, McDonald's corporation provided a \$30,00 grant to help furnish the new facility.

The Clinton Township Area Optimist Club sponsored a "Friend of Youth" Picnic in Warren, which brought in over 30 kids to enjoy the hotdogs, games, and activities. The water balloon toss was of course the best activity going and all kids were given prizes for attending.

Club Treasurer Bill Johnson was extremely proud to announce to **The Morning Optimist Club of Auburn Hills** that it was now an official non-profit organization!

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was busy popping away at the Dream Cruise in Royal Oak. In a one-day event, their Popcorn Wagon brought in \$550.

The **Holly Area Optimist Club** members are taking a giant step in their battle against child abuse. After running a statewide Task Force on Child Abuse for one year, they are now taking a step inside an original play called "BEAR". BEAR will take the audience down the slippery hill that is faced by a teenager who has been raped. BEAR was written by a local Optimist Member, Joe Mischler who is also a teacher, director, historian and playwright. Twenty-one theatre students from the University of Michigan have already been asked to get involved.

Please Note: Nicole Ingersoll will be the 2004-2005 Optimists In Action Editor. All Optimists In Action information should be forwarded to her either by email or by U.S. Mail. Be sure to include her on your mailing list for your Club Bulletins as well.

Did your club conduct a really unique project for kids, have a cool fundraiser or do something neat to support your community? If so, we want to hear about it. See Nicole's contact information below to submit it for the 2nd Quarter Optimists In Action.

Nicole Ingersoll
536 Green Street
South Haven, MI 49090
Email: ingenm@hotmail.com

Quotes for the Day

An optimistic attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier. *Unknown*
Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily. *Sally Koch*

Next OptiViews Deadline
December 5, 2004

Submit articles via e-mail
to: hhamil@wowway.com



Websites

Michigan District
www.michiganoptimists.org

Optimist International
www.optimist.org



W.J. "Knobby" Walsh
Publisher/Editor

Heather A. Hamilton
OptiViews Editor

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.

OptiViews (UPSP 667-270) is published quarterly for \$3.00 per member, per year, by the Michigan District, of Optimist International, 11040 Homer Road, Litchfield, MI 49252-9756. Periodical postage paid at Litchfield, MI Postmaster: Send all address corrections to OptiViews, 11040 Homer Road, Litchfield, MI 49252-9756.

Michigan District of Optimist International
11040 Homer Road
Litchfield, Michigan 49252-9756

Periodicals
Paid at
Litchfield

