



OptiViews

Michigan District
Optimist International

Volume 28, Number 1

Oct/Nov/Dec 2007

**Something New, Something Different. . .
Get Ready for a Mind-Altering Experience**



You might think that learning about brains would be Borrr-ing! Not the way the **The Karas Brain Performance Institute** does it! **BrainDEFENDER** Training is fascinating and fun. It takes less time than it takes to go to a movie but it will change forever the way you think about your safety, health, and life itself. You'll move, shout, and laugh together as you learn fascinating and important facts about your brain and how to use it! Best part is that you can apply it in your Optimist life. From improving your leadership and development skills as a Club or District Leader to learning how to work better on Club committees or projects.

Dr. Tom Karas will be our special guest at the **First Quarter Conference** on **Saturday, November 10th**. He will be conducting a breakout session after lunch. Please encourage club members to attend this great experience.



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What is Your Dream?

Bob Schiller

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Michigan District 2007-2008 Governor

In my last article, I addressed the question of "Are We There Yet?". It is great to say yes...kind of. You see, as Optimists, our efforts to "Bring Out the Best In Kids" is an adventure that continues to expand, continues to ask us which path is correct, and continues to remind us that our goal is always "just over the next hill". That is why the start of a new Optimist year is so reinvigorating. We get to look back during our Officer Installations at the wonderful successes that occurred during the "Expect Success" year. And now, as promised one whole year ago at the Fourth Quarter Convention in Windsor, it is time to raise the bar again and lead Optimist International to its destiny as the #1 volunteer service organization in the world! How are we, a single district, going to accomplish such a task? The answer is simple...we will lead by example!

So, here is the plan; "educate and market". Yes, it took a whole year to come to that vision. How to "educate and market" was the difficult part and it is now in place. First, we need to have all of our members' attention and attendance. This means our conferences need to provide a greater "WIIFM" (What's In It For Me?) factor for everyone, new and old (first time members and every-time members). We need to continually enhance your ability to find information, find new project ideas, find help when you are struggling, find new members, and build new clubs. Your 2007 - 2008 "Dream Team" officers that attended training in September have already experienced the "WIIFM" factor. We provided each of them with a disk of "President's Tools" that has computer files that can be utilized as samples and templates during their year leading your clubs. They were educated on the navigation of the Optimist Leaders (www.optimistleaders.org) website, where most of the Optimist International reports can be filled out online. The District is exploring enhancements to our Michigan District website (www.michiganoptimists.org) to enable everyone to share and download files that may be helpful to their club. We are also looking into being able to provide a template for your club to use to start a website of your own. Our Marketing will be in the capable hands of the "Publicity & Sponsorship" committee with **Harriet Cosby** at the Chair. Their focus is exactly what their committee name states. You will see District programs like BrainDEFENDER

that help increase membership, increased media presence (newspapers, television, and radio), and optimistically billboard advertising. They are developing marketing materials that will be available to your clubs for promotion, materials to convince corporations and individuals to become sponsors to the only organization whose sole focus is children and their communities. The Leadership & Development committee under the direction of **Jan Oord** as Chair has been meeting all summer to bring to you the best training experience we possibly can provide. Your Oratorical committee, **Terry Carlson**-Chair, has a DVD in the final stages of production. And the list goes on and on.

I confidently say, with your help and support, the 2007 - 2008 "Optimists Dare 2 Dream" year will be historic in its efforts and its results. In the end however, it is all about you, the members of the greatest district in Optimist International. No one can make you grow in membership, or build new clubs, or be more active in your communities. We can only provide you with the best materials and support possible and be optimistic that, when the year is over, the Michigan District where "Optimists Dare 2 Dream", will be the #1 District in all of Optimist International! When we realize this "dream", we will be able to provide a template for success to all of our fellow Optimists around the world.

In closing, I offer this personal invitation to each and every one of you, my fellow Optimists. Join us on November 9 - 11, 2007 at the beautifully renovated Hotel St. Regis in Detroit, for this year's First Optimist Conference. The General Session on November 10th will be new and invigorating (see Convention Chair **Nicole Ingersoll's** message). Plan to stay for the dinner party...and bring your dancing shoes because "Motown Madness" will abound!

Optimistic as Always,

Bob Schiller

2007-2008 Michigan District Governor

District Supplies At Your Fingertips

Wow...a New Optimist Year is here! While you are in the planning stages of each of the activities and programs your Club will conduct, don't forget to order your supplies. It is quick, easy and you are just a click away! From the comforts of your home you can "shop till you drop" at www.optimiststuff.com. Save your Club from last minute hassles and some cool cash on shipping cost by ordering all of the supplies you need in one order.

For those of you who have patiently waited for the Red, White and Blue Michigan District shirts in size 2XL and 3XL, we now have them in stock at just \$35.00 each.

If you would like to reserve a shirt for pick-up at the First Quarter Meeting in Detroit, please call **Linda Brooks**, Michigan District Supplies Chairperson, at (313) 836-2835.

Attention Optimist Clubs

Marc D. Katz

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Michigan District Secretary-Treasurer

New IRS Filing Requirements for Many U.S. Clubs

Optimist International recently received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service alerting the organization about new filing requirements that will affect many Optimist Clubs in the United States.

The letter states:

Beginning in 2008, small tax-exempt organizations that previously were not required to file returns may be required to submit an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, "Electronic Notice (e-Postcard for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ." Small tax-exempt organizations, who gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less, are not required to file Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax," or Form 990-EZ, "Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax." With the enactment of the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006, these small tax-exempt organizations will now be required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the "e-Postcard," with the IRS annually.

The e-Postcard will require the organization to provide basic information such as their name and address, any other names they use, a Web address if they have one, the name and address of a principal officer of the organization, and a statement that the organization's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less.

The PPA added this filing requirement to improve transparency within the non-profit sector. The information provided is disclosable and will ensure that donors and the IRS have current information about these small tax-exempt organizations.

How to Submit the e-Postcard

Small organizations must submit the e-Postcard electronically. **There will be no paper form.** The IRS is developing an electronic filing system for the e-Postcard. Filing procedures will be publicized on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/eo when the system is completed and ready for use.

Consequences of Not Filing the e-Postcard

The PPA requires the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Therefore, any organization that does not file the e-Postcard, or a required information return Form 990, Form 990-EZ or Form 990-PF, will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.

For more information about the new requirements, Optimists can visit www.irs.gov/eo.



Thank You All and H-E-L-L-L-L-P!

Michael K. Seltzer

mkseltzer@yahoo.com or (248) 738-7735

Michigan District 2007-2008 Governor-Elect

Most of all I want to say thank you to all Michigan Optimists for putting their confidence in me. I am truly humbled by your faith in my abilities, constant encouragement to lead and the immediate offers of support. I am looking forward to leading the best district in all of Optimist International.

Now I need your help! This is not a one person job. Through the next 12 months I will be learning the job of Governor. I must also start to build a team to lead this wonderful district we have. There will be those of you I tap and ask to serve, but I am hoping even more of you will step forward and offer to serve. In particular, I am looking for new leaders. Only through the development of new leadership can we continue to lead Michigan Optimism into a bright future.

In my experience, people that have passion regarding an idea put forth a greater effort to succeed. If you are a current or past president and think you could lead a zone, let me know. If you are a past Lt Gov, Asst Gov or a committee chair or member and want to lead a committee, please let me know.

Governor Bob Schiller is going to have a great year. I am looking forward to working with and learning from him. One of my jobs is to continue that momentum and go to even greater heights for the all the children. For as Optimists, there is no limit to what we can do.

Michael K. Seltzer

Governor-Elect 2007-2008



Round Em' Up Cowboy, We're Going to Texas!

Don Brose

broseelectric@msn.com or (248) 391-3075

Michigan District Past Governor and Optimist International Ambassador

If you're a Club or District Leader, or a Club or District Leader-to-be, now is the time to clear space in your busy schedule to make it a truly memorable year. One way to do so is to attend the **2007-2008 Optimist International Convention** in Grapevine, Texas. Learning from and creating friendships with over 2000 great Optimists are only two of the many benefits reaped by your attendance. Top rate workshops, loads of motivation, and a whole lot of fun are among the other benefits. So we invite you to get your planner out and mark or type in "International Convention" in the July 2-5 spaces. It will truly be an opportunity to complete a wonderful year of Optimism for you.

Texas does everything big, and the Gaylord Texan Resort is no exception. – situated along Lake Grapevine just minutes from the DFW International Airport, the resort is a destination in itself. Send me your Email address, and I'll forward the best airfares and details of this great event as they become available. I can't wait for you to join scores of Michiganders in the "Big D".



Welcome Optimist International Vice President Earl Pollock

The Michigan District is pleased to welcome Optimist International Vice President Earl Pollock to our 2007-2008 First Quarter District Conference at the Hotel St. Regis in Detroit, Michigan. Earl has been involved in the Evening Optimist Club of Coquitlam, British Columbia since 1974. He held two terms as the club's president (1982 – 3 and 1988 – 9) before becoming actively involved in the Pacific Northwest District.

At the District level, Earl was a Distinguished Secretary-Treasurer, Distinguished & Outstanding Lt Governor prior to becoming the District Governor for the 2000 – 01 Optimist year. Other District experiences include District Oratorical Committee Chair, District Finance Committee Chair, and District Convention Committee Chair.

Earl has also been a member of several Optimist International committees, including the Credentials Committee, the Resolutions Committee and the Club Services Committee. Earl is married to Connie and has 3 children and 6 grandchildren. He is a retired Certified Management Accountant.

Optimist International Certified Trainer John "Jack" Creswell Visits Michigan

Calling all Club Presidents, Lieutenant Governors and Assistant Governors!!!! Are you ready for the 2007-2008 Optimist Year? To help you be the best leaders ever, we have planned outstanding breakout sessions for the First Quarter District Conference. You are probably asking yourself.....how is this possible? Well, we will have Optimist International's Certified Trainer, John "Jack" Creswell, in our midst and leading these breakout sessions.



Jack earned his Certified Trainer designation in 2003 and is currently serving on the Certified Trainer Board for Optimist International. As a past International Vice President, Jack brings with him a wealth of experience, including being a 2-time Distinguished and Outstanding Governor of the Pennsylvania Upper Delaware District, chairing the New Club Building Committee 3 times, chairing the District Oratorical Contest for 7 years as well as being the chair of the OIJCG for 11 years and the Leadership Development Chair for 8 years.

The Michigan District is excited to welcome Jack to our First Quarter Conference and we look forward to several exciting training opportunities for our district leaders during the November weekend.



The 2006-2007 "Expect Success" Optimist Year Results in SUCCESS!

Lou Moss

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Michigan District Immediate Past Governor

Michigan Optimists are the GREATEST! Throughout the 2006-2007 Optimist year, my husband, **Dan**, and I have witnessed an incredible amount of enthusiasm and LOVE for kids and communities through our Optimist Clubs. For that, I thank each and every club member for sharing the "Love" as they "Expect Success".

We had a wonderful "Optimist Family Reunion" Convention on August 24 – 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. **Optimist International President Ronnie Dunn and Teammate Wayne**, "shared their LOVE" with our Michigan Optimist members. Special thanks to **Barry Burnham**, Convention Chair along with his committee, for making it an "over the top" weekend. **Past Governor Harry Margo** and his wife **Kathi**, did so much to make it a memorable trip for our out of town guests with a special tour of Grand Rapids prior to the Convention. The **Kent Optimist Club of Grand Rapids** and **Grand Rapids Optimist Club** worked the registration table and provided the hospitality room on Friday evening. **Cheryl Thames** and her Leadership Development Committee, helped provide meaningful workshops as participants worked toward their "degrees" which will be presented at the First Quarter Meeting.

We also welcomed Optimist International Foundation Board member **Bill Scott** and his wife, **Patti**, as they helped **Marc Katz**, Foundation Representative, recognize Optimist members for their generous donations to the Foundation. Congratulations to **Mike Seltzer** for his election to the office of 2008-2009 Michigan Optimist Governor. Our Keynote Speaker, **Michael Caruso**, wowed our members...same as he does wherever he travels on his speaking engagements throughout the country. At our evening "Governor's Ball," **2007-2008 Governor Bob Schiller** and his Executive Committee was officially installed and the "Dream Team" was made ready to launch. We were entertained on Saturday evening by a talented local band, "Entourage" lead by **Tim Sanders**. On Sunday morning, **Immediate Past Distinguished Governor Don Brose** led a reverent Memorial Service for Optimist members who passed away throughout this year..."A Celebration of Lights" before the breakfast and entertainment. After the "Family Breakfast," **PJ Weber** amazed us with his magic act. Both Tim Sanders and

PJ Weber decided to join their local Optimist Clubs after being at our convention.

Since this article is written during the month of September...prior to the official end of the 2006-2007 Optimist year, we are still working on encouraging more clubs to be Honor Clubs and we're actively finalizing many new clubs to be organized during this Optimist year. Clubs and District Leaders will be recognized during the Second and Third Quarters in 2008.

We have published the Honor Roll Clubs for the First and Second Quarter in previous Optiviews Editions, and I want to congratulate the Third Quarter Honor Roll Clubs...the best this year...40 clubs as of June 30, 2007 (please see page 6). I also want to give special thanks to **Nicole Ingersoll**, Optiviews Editor (and President of the Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo) and her mom, **Linda Ingersoll** (also Region 2 Assistant Governor and PGI Chair) for their tireless work on our quarterly district communication – The Optiviews.

This has been a fantastic year as your Michigan Optimist Governor and I will always remember the terrific people who I know throughout the state and congratulate them for all they do in their communities. I wish **2007-2008 Governor Bob Schiller** much success as he leads the "Optimists Dare 2 Dream" year. A special thank you to the 100 people who served as officers, committee leaders and committee members this year. They are truly the "Super Optimists" of the Michigan District. A huge thank you to **Secretary-Treasurer Doris Modrak** for all of her work as the "Queen of Finance". And finally, to my husband, **Dan**, for being the "wind beneath my wings" throughout the past two years as Governor-Elect and Governor. It has been an amazing experience for me...and to all Michigan Optimists...I Love You!





Many New Stars Shine Bright in the Michigan District Welcome Our Newest Optimist Members Who Joined During 06/01/07—08/31/07

Berrien Springs

Michelle Bachiochi

Decatur

Mike Siver

Karen Warsko

Niles

Joan Renbarger

Muskegon Mona Shores

Nathan Whipple

Muskegon Heights

Robert Wilkerson

Ronald Jenkins

Floyd Fonte

Robert Melton

Betty Bush

Joan Morse

Marilyn Robertson

Darwin Watts

Cheryl Watts

Lansing

Diane Jones

Margaret Cook

Gratiot County

Adam Vibber

Yuridia Lorenzo

Jackson

Theresa Weber

James Duwve

John Tornga

Lapeer

William Sprague

Flint West

John Saalwaechter

Michael Deneen

Milton Wendel

Micah Widder

Grand Blanc

Kelly Williams

Karen Coombs

Ypsilanti

Barbara McCauley

Deb Baxter

Fenton Area

Blair Kenewell

Sally Dunlop

West Bloomfield

Cheryl Farwell

John Keeler

Detroit Northwest

Hervey Jenkins

Valerie Raspberry

Patricia Solomon

Lavori Cade

Detroit Western Int'l

Christie Jennings

Tracey Randolph

Detroit Greater Grace

Carol Peoples

Delicia Evans

Bay City

Joellen Strieter

Corraine Bloomfield

Ann Arbor Breakfast

Laura Spensley

Kirk Howard

Dean Sommerfield

Clinton Township Area

Carrie Fuca

Robert Bernat

Sheila Miller

Central Macomb

Maria Urbaniak

Theresa Thompson

Traverse City

Christie Carlson

West Branch

Nicola Nameth

Battle Creek

Frederick Stendel

Kalamazoo Breakfast

Doug Scripture

DeeAnn Dopp

Brighton

Jim Mitte

Waterford Twp Breakfast

Karen Seawright

Robert Hilliard

Rochester Area

Nancy Butty

Linda Abraham

Shelby Township Area

Susan Durlock

Wayne Durlock

Southfield Lathrup

Robert Kakos

Kevin Butts

Michael Pickett

Royal Oak

Michael Sheppard

Pontiac

Barb Raby

Lakes Area

Denise Finnerty

Roseville

Bobbie Wilson

Rita Valade

Marie DelGreco

Rachel Hyslop

Angela Panicucci

Angeline Marlal

Shawn Marlal

Francine Maisano

Robert Savage

Detroit Central

Crawford Webb

Marshuna Davis

Alfred Smith

Bloomfield Hills

Jacob Brown

Hartland

Robert Perkins

Liggie Perkins

JOOI Counselors Metro Detroit

Patricia Burnett

Detroit Loving Community

Sheila Cockrel

Norman Tyler

Jasmine Jenkins

Carmen West

Shan West

Wayne Jenkins

Audrey Rollins

Theodore Harris

Lennon Martin

Cornell Moseley

James Weaver

Rogers City Luncheon

Robert Starnes

John Schreiber

Saginaw

Michael Miner

Jeanne Durand

Paw Paw

Sherry Thompson

Detroit Hartford Community

Eugene McCrary

Shinyonta Baldwin

Farmington Hills Breakfast

James Heppard

Auburn Hills

Rhonda Armstrong





Thank You to Our Sponsors for Making Us a Stronger District! During 06/01/07—08/31/07

Berrien Springs

Lee Davidson

Decatur

Evelyn Avery

Robert Rex

Niles

Michel Listenberger

Muskegon Mona Shores

Ray Genter

Muskegon Heights

Terry Sabo

Ronald Collins

Ralph Bush

Ronald Morse

William Morris

Richard Brown

Lansing

Robert Jones

Jacob Cook

Gratiot County

Mark Szymczak

Linda Williams

Detroit Northwest

Clarence Bradfield

Patrick Gordon

Carolyn Wanzo

Henry Cade

Jackson

Angel Miller

Ross Plasters

Jack Tornga

Lapeer

David Bryers

Flint West

Greg Hillaker

John Schmitt

David Crabill

Walter Widder

Grand Blanc

Jeanna Clifford

Ypsilanti

Eloise Mays

Jackie McLain

Fenton Area

Holly Pingatore

West Bloomfield

Lance Stokes

Wesley Berry

Detroit Western Int'l

Patricia Henry

Shawan Dortch

Detroit Greater Grace

Lucia Rogers

Cheryl Evans

Clinton Township Area

Lou Moss

Brenda Szalka

Central Macomb

Cindie Szarek

Sara Glover

Traverse City

William Bassett

Bay City

Kate Young

Barb Skowronski

West Branch

Cathy Zimmerman

Battle Creek

Robin Berry

Kalamazoo Breakfast

Kate Holaday

Lynn Heckler

Ann Arbor Breakfast

Frank Fike

Jerry Kelley

Dave Dean

Brighton

Lauretta Miller

Waterford Township Breakfast

Marjorie Dronsella

William Burr

Rochester Area

Jason Weir

Mike Helms

Southfield Lathrup

Roy Bell

Rich Bloom

Molly Eklund-Easley

Royal Oak

Steve Gustafson

Pontiac

Monetta Foster

Lakes Area

Lisa Boettcher

Roseville

Maggie Rollinger

Barb Miglio

Frank Maisano

Angeline Marlar

Shirley Savage

Detroit Central

Tommy Watkins

Lorenzo Frazier

Rogers City Luncheon

Michael Marx

Matt Quaine

Paw Paw

Matt Cooper

Detroit Loving Community

Dorothy Tyler

Fatima Plater

Dianne Martin

Linda Simmons

Vivian Weaver

Saginaw

Ron Platt

Margaret Steele

Hartland

Kathleen Cartwright

Farmington Hills Breakfast

Marguerite Smith

Auburn Hills

Douglas Lalone

Bloomfield Hills

Michael Cowdrey

Detroit Harford Community

Jan McCrary

Verna Brocks

JOOI Counselors Metro Detroit

Indira Shelton-Pierce

Shelby Township Area

Doc Durlock



Dare 2. Be All You Can Be!

Linda K. Ingersoll

lkingersoll@i2k.com or (269) 639-1871

Michigan District PGI Chairperson

The start of each Optimist year is the ideal time to reflect on your past accomplishments and dream of future successes for the upcoming year. Have you worked on a club or District committee? Did you chair a committee? Were you part of a new club building effort? Did you bring in new members? Each of these areas is included in one of the levels of growth and can be counted towards your achievement of a PGI Level.

Personal Growth & Involvement (PGI) is a fun and cost free way for members to grow as Optimists. As members learn more about the organization and are encouraged to take an active part in the various programs, everyone benefits – the club, the zone, the region and the Michigan District.

The PGI program provides each Optimist an easy way to track their successes and set stretch goals for the upcoming year. By taking a personal interest in tracking what you have done and setting stretch goals or personal challenges for what you can yet do, your club, zone, region and the Michigan District will all grow with you.

I challenge each club to assign a 2007-2008 PGI representative. Each of these club representatives should plan to attend the First Quarter Conference in November where there will be a hands-on session to help get the PGI program started or re-energized for their clubs. Let's work together to make this the most successful PGI year yet!!

JOOI is Ready for the D.R.E.A.M. Year

Rocco Romano

roccor712@yahoo.com or (248) 435-8173

Michigan District JOOI Advisor

FROM THE JOOI Board Elect - Life is so much more fulfilling when you are part of something amazing. To live your life filled with positive experiences is a dream come true. Being part of Junior Octagon Optimist International is a positive step towards developing a complete and fulfilling life. We, the JOOI board, are excited to be part of something so great, and we're very honored to have a place within it.

The Michigan District JOOI Board for 2007-2008 is well on its way to success. We have had several meetings over the summer. Within those meetings we have accomplished a lot. For starters, we have grown to know each other better. I know that doesn't sound like a huge accomplishment, but it has helped us work together more smoothly. As a result Board Members have become more comfortable in sharing ideas and the energy is building. We have already decided on a theme for the year. We also have designed a JOOI t-shirt and pin. The theme is **D.R.E.A.M.**, which stands for **Discover Real Excellence Achieve More**. We thought it would send an optimistic yet realistic message to the rest of the Optimist Clubs reminding them to Dream Big because anything is possible.



We have also decided to start a Facebook group, through email, allowing the members of the new JOOI Board to communicate and talk about meetings and important events coming up. It will also be accessible to all the JOOI clubs in Michigan District. They can access the group and keep up to date on current events, projects and conferences. We are planning on a District Newsletter to help with communications. We also plan to divide up the JOOI Clubs amongst ourselves for "Fan-out" telephone calling.

FROM Rocco - We have been very successful in new JOOI clubs for the 2006-2007 Optimist year. We lost 5 clubs but added 9 = 4 Clubs net gain. As JOOI Advisor I look forward to a great year of building relationships between our current JOOI Clubs as well as adding at least as many JOOI Clubs as we did this year. Thank you to all who helped make the 2007 JOOI Conference a success.

Develop a Life-Long Love of Learning...about OPTIMISM!

Janet Oord

joord@kresanet.org or (269) 324-5975

Michigan District Leadership Development Chairperson

Here we go... *Dare 2 Dream* Optimist Year! Our Governor has challenged us to open up our hearts and *dream big goals* for our District, Clubs and especially for the youth in our communities. In order to do this, we all must open up our brains and learn about:

- ◆ new ways to conduct our Optimist business
- ◆ exciting new project ideas
- ◆ fun ways to keep our members energized and motivated to do the important service work

Your *Leadership Dream Team* has been busy planning pre-training for Club and District Leaders and developing a District meeting agenda full of inspiring and relevant learning opportunities for Michigan District Optimists. Our hope is to provide training that meets member's needs and stimulates their dreaming. We also plan to include *motivational* and *club sharing* presentations during the general sessions to inspire each of you to grow as an Optimist or add an exciting new project for youth in your community. The vision is that you will all walk away from District meetings with brains and arms full of ideas and materials to use in your clubs and communities.



DARE 2 LEARN

Your 2007 – 2008 Leadership Team

Jan Oord, Chair

Linda Ingersoll, PGI Chair

Bert Quinn, Past District Secretary-Treasurer

Sheryl Mitchell, Director of Committees

Mike Seltzer, Governor-Elect

Jim Huston, Lieutenant Governor Zone 19

Paul Lipson, Member Keego Harbor Optimist Club

Feel free to contact a member of the Leadership Team with your ideas

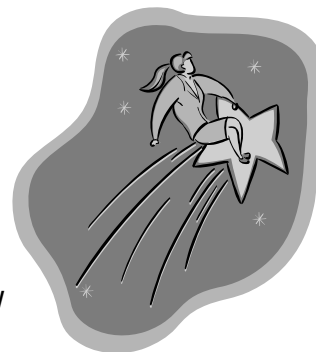


Dare to Dream of a Greater Michigan District

Dwayne Baxa

dnjbaxa@comcast.net or (586) 749-1120

Michigan District New Club Building Chairperson



Dear Fellow Michigan District Optimists:

We already know how great our Michigan District Optimists are, but we can become even greater by expanding our District. Let's all Dare to Dream of reaching more kids by building new Optimist Clubs.

Congratulations to all those clubs who have decided to build a new Optimist Club for our District. I know the challenges and rewards that you have met along the way. For those of you who are considering this noble cause please be aware that there are many tools at your disposal. Optimist International has a program that can assist you to plan building your new club. To access these tools please visit the OI website at www.optimist.org. Select "Members" from the menu bar and then click on "Clubs and Districts." The New Club Building (NCB) materials can be reached from there. These materials will assist you with:

- ◆ Assessing the needs of the community in which you will build your new club
- ◆ Identifying core members in the community through whom you can network and grow your membership to the 25 needed to charter a new club
- ◆ Planning informational and organizational meetings
- ◆ Following through with health checks and trainings for the new club to develop a strong and vibrant organization

We all agree that our Optimist Clubs draw us and potential new members with the promise and opportunities to help kids. But what is also needed is a focus, a plan. The materials mentioned will provide you with templates and step-by-step guides. The critical element needed from you is the leadership to help a group of individuals in a new Optimist community realize their shared dream and identify their specific goals for their new club. People join a cause when it is well defined with measurable goals.

The Michigan District has many resources to assist your club sponsor in creating a new club. Our District has several Builders of Excellence with a great deal of experience willing to guide you in your project. All that is required is a commitment from you and your club to Bring Out the Best in Kids by creating a new Optimist Club.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact me. I look forward to an exciting 2007-2008 year of growth for our Michigan District. Let's **Dare to Dream** that we can do it together and then Let's Get It Done!

Yours in Optimism,

Dwayne Baxa

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2007-2008 Optimist International Foundation “Achieving the Extraordinary”

Karen Monville

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Michigan District Optimist International Foundation Representative

This year's OIF President, Ron Graves, has as his theme *“Achieving the Extraordinary”*. He has set a goal of \$1MM in unrestricted donations for this Optimist year. The unrestricted funds are used for scholarships, JOOI, training, and recognition programs, just to name a few. While all donations are welcome and appreciated, it is the unrestricted funds that enable the Foundation to continue with these much-needed programs. **For those who want to support the future of Optimism, the unrestricted gift is the BEST gift.**

Has your club appointed a Club Foundation Representative for the 2007-2008 Optimist year? If not, please do so ASAP. This is a very easy and fun job to have. If you had a Club Foundation Representative last year, this appointment continues until a replacement is appointed with the OIF. Appointments can be made directly from the Foundation's website at www.oifoundation.org.

Donations can be made to the Optimist International Foundation in any amount, based on the individual's ability to contribute. Some of the specific programs are listed below:

Dime A Day

The Dime A Day campaign asks each Optimist member to contribute \$36.60 (2008 is a leap year) to the Optimist International Foundation. The money raised from the Dime A Day program is unrestricted and is used to support the programs of Optimist International. There is a special pin from the Foundation for each member who supports this program.

Century Circle

The Century Circle is a new level of annual giving between Dime A Day and Presidents Club. Donors who give an unrestricted gift of at least \$100 and less than \$250 will automatically be considered members of the Century Club. A static cling suitable for a vehicle or office window will be mailed to the donor with their contribution acknowledgement.

Presidents Club

Members may join the Presidents Club by making an initial gift of \$250 and renewing each year for a \$250 annual contribution. Donors receive a prestigious lapel pin showing that they are members of the Presidents Club.

Friends of Today

A Friend of Today makes a minimum donation of \$500 annually to the Foundation and receives a signed and numbered collector's print.

Friends of Tomorrow

The Friends of Tomorrow recognizes donors who have made a provision for the Foundation through their estate plan. A bequest in a will, naming the Foundation as a trust recipient, gifting a life insurance policy, or establishing a charitable gift annuity are some of the ways to qualify for membership.

William H. Harrison Society

This Society is named after the first Optimist International President, William H. Harrison, whose drive and determination helped propel Optimist International into a premier service organization. The Foundations' Board of Directors created this Society as a special way to recognize the Major Donors of the Foundations. To become a member of the Society, life-to-date giving to the Optimist International Foundations must be \$10,000 or more. Annual contributions of \$1,000 are required to maintain membership in the Society. Members of the Society will be invited to attend a recognition dinner with the Foundations' Boards of Directors at the International Convention, and are listed on the websites and in annual reports. Donor is automatically in the Society when meeting the aforementioned criteria.

Christian Larson Partners

Both Boards of the Optimist International Foundations adopted a new recognition level, effective July 5, 2006, for a one-time \$1,000 unrestricted gift. The participants become members of the Christian D. Larson Partners, for those who follow the Creed and help fund the Foundations' mission through their personal giving at this level. Donors may combine multiple unrestricted gifts in one Optimist fiscal year to achieve the \$1,000 level. Memberships are numbered and Christian D. Larson Partners receive a plaque recognizing their membership.

During the 2006-2007 Optimist year, our Michigan District established a new record for unrestricted gifts to the Optimist International Foundation. With the continued support and generosity of members of the Michigan District, we can not only maintain this level of donations, but raise the bar. **THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OIF.**



OI Foundation Silent Auction

Karen Monville

beacon646-misc@yahoo.com

Michigan District Optimist International Foundation Representative

There will be a Silent Auction for the Optimist International Foundation at the First Quarter Conference on Saturday, November 10, 2007. It will be held during the Saturday evening dinner. If you or your club is interested in donating to the Silent Auction, that would be very appreciated. You may donate individual items or baskets. Please provide a brief description of what you are bringing and the value. If you have questions or need additional information please contact **Karen Monville**.

Only cash or checks are accepted as payment for items that you win. *Please make checks payable to: OI Foundation.* Also, include your club number and club member number if you know it.



Bring Your Spouse; Bring Your Kids! We Have Something for Everyone at the First Quarter Conference

Are you a guest of an Optimist member? Are you a child of an Optimist member? Not ready to become a member or too young to join a club? Still join us at the First Quarter Conference November 9, 10, 11, 2007 in Detroit, Michigan. We have a special trip planned to The New Detroit Science Center.

Children's Activities

Come join the fun and share in a truly unforgettable experience at the Detroit Science Center. Oozing with disgusting science and interactive learning games, the *Animal Grossology* exhibit will introduce science in a way that makes kids giggle. While at the Detroit Science Center the children will also visit the Daimler Chrysler Science Stage Show and share the day's experiences with their friends during lunch.



Spouse's Activities

Have you ever wanted to better understand the human body? The Detroit Science Center's *Our Body: The Universe Within* exhibit will provide you with the opportunity to go "under the skin" and discover just what makes us "tick". You will also be transported back in time as you share in the IMAX experience while viewing *Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure*. Join us for a truly memorable day of sights and sounds. Lunch will be provided at The Science Center.



Spouses and Guests: We Need Your Input

First Lady Jane Schiller

Past Governor Ben Lowery

Michigan District Spouses' Activities Co-Chairpersons

We want to bring the family involvement back to our District Conferences and we need your help. As co-chairs for the 2007-2008 Dare 2 Dream Year, we want to know what interests you the spouses, guests, and children of Optimist membership. This year we will be in Lansing for Third Quarter and Kalamazoo for Fourth Quarter. Are there specific places that you would like to see during the conferences? Or is there an activity, show, exhibit that you are interested in? We are here to make your visit just as memorable as the Optimist member(s)'. Please feel free to contact Ben Lowery at govben@voyager.net or (989) 345-3980 or Jane Schiller at (248) 683-3192.

Optimists In Action

Julie Howes
Editor

The Fourth Quarter of the 2006-2007 Optimist Year does not appear to have slowed down for many of our District Clubs. Below is a summary of some of the many activities within our District:

The Optimist Club of Alpena held a Kids Fishing Outing which served hundreds of children in their area. They also realized a profit of approximately \$5,000 at the Fair Week Concessions and are working on upgrades to the playground at the Fairgrounds.

The Bay City Noon Club participated in the Adopt-a-Highway project collecting trash from their assigned stretch of highway.

The Optimist Club of Birmingham held a 'Taste of Tuscany' wine strolling and min auction event.

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo held their annual Back-To-School Auction raising over \$5,000 for the Annual Back-To-School shopping trip for 40 area children. Each child was provided with a backpack filled with school supplies donated by club members and then was able to use the funds to purchase clothing.

The Optimist Club of Ludington held a Pastie Sale. An original recipe was used to sell what the club claims as the 'greatest tasting Northern Michigan Pasties ever.'

The Mason Breakfast Optimist Club continues their annual fundraisers with the MSU game concessions and have raised nearly \$1,800 already this year with that project.

The Evening Optimist Club of Greater Muskegon continues to hold successful Bingo fundraisers with a record crowd over the Labor Day weekend.

As we begin a new Optimist Year, remember the following that was noted in the Mason Breakfast Optimist Club newsletter:

In each of us there is a little of all of us. Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Reminder—please forward your club bulletins and special club announcements to: **Julie Howes, 50 Grant Street, Galesburg, MI 49053-9621** or email: JLHOWES217@aol.com

Michigan District Optimists' EXPO *Where Dreams Come Alive!*

Sheryl L. Mitchell
sherylwm@comcast.net or (248) 788-7512
Michigan District Director of Committees

The Michigan District First Quarter Conference is being held in the beautifully renovated St. Regis Hotel in Detroit! While there, come visit the EXPO! This is a display area where Optimist members and clubs can pick up information about a variety of programs and activities offered by Optimist International. There is a wealth of opportunities to inspire your Optimist Club to "Dare 2 Dream".

So, come visit the EXPO to get information about the fabulous and fun projects that your club can participate in, such as: Oratorical Contest, Essay Contest, Scrapbooks, Junior Golf, Tri-Star Sports, New Club Building, Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI), OI Foundation and Community Project Awards. These and many other activities for youth are where dreams come alive!

All of the Michigan District Committee Chairpersons are invited and encouraged to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to

participate in the EXPO and to share information that will encourage Optimist Clubs to "Dare 2 Dream"!

To reserve display space at the EXPO or for additional information, please feel free to contact me at:

Sheryl L. Mitchell
Director of Committees
Michigan District Optimists
5735 Warrenshire Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Email: sherylwm@comcast.net
Cell: 248.709.2492
Home: 248.788.7512
Fax: 248.671.5082



MOTOWN MADNESS

First Quarter Conference: November 9—11, 2007

Nicole M. Ingersoll

ingers007@yahoo.com or (269) 217-0513

Michigan District Conferences and Conventions Chairperson



Michigan District Optimists, are you ready for a fun-filled weekend of fellowship, leadership development, networking, and great entertainment? Mark your calendars for November 9, 10, 11, 2007. We're kicking off the 2007-2008 Optimist year in style at the newly renovated Hotel St. Regis in Detroit, Michigan, owned by one of our well-known Michigan District Optimists—**Mr. Herb Strather**. Hotel St. Regis is just minutes away from Fischer

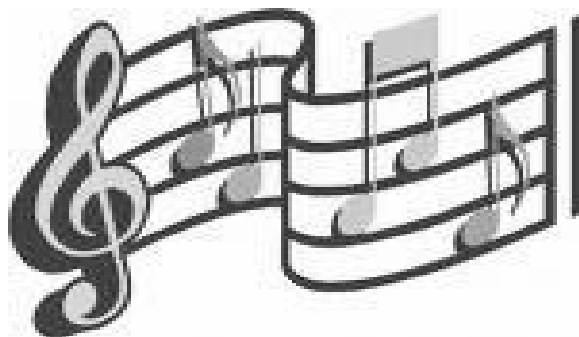
Theatre, Comerica Park, Ford Field, MGM Grand, and COBO Convention Center.

It's going to be "Motown Madness" at the First Quarter Conference. That's right, we're taking it back to where great music started. Your weekend will begin on Friday night by enjoying the ever-popular Hospitality Room with your hosts Central Detroit Optimists and West Bloomfield Optimists. You may also feel free to join us at the Executive Board Meeting.

On Saturday, we will be introducing the 2007-2008 Dare 2 Dream Team and installing the Board of Directors. We also have great breakout sessions and round table discussions for everyone from first-timers to lieutenant and assistant governors. Our special guests from Optimist International, **Vice President Earl Pollock** and **Certified Trainer Jack Creswell**, will be leading some of the breakout sessions. Get energized at the Karas Brain Performance Institute's BrainDEFENDER program after lunch. There is something for everyone and we guarantee that you can bring the information back to your club to make for a successful year.

We're keeping the music alive with a children's performance group at lunch on Saturday. Be sure to pack your dancing shoes because we have a special treat for you Saturday evening. It's a Motown Revue and it's going to be out of this world. And, before you begin your journey home, we would like for you to join us on Sunday at the Michigan District Family Breakfast.

SEE YOU IN DETROIT!



Driving Directions to Hotel St. Regis

North: I-75 South toward Flint. Take Exit 54 toward Clay Ave/E Grand Blvd. Stay straight onto Chrysler Dr. Turn Right onto General Motors Blvd / Grand Blvd. End at Hotel St Regis.

Northwest: I-96 East toward Lansing. Keep left (Exit 163) toward Port Huron. Take I-696; merge onto M-10 S (Exit 8) toward US-24 / Telegraph Rd. Take Exit 4C toward W Grand Blvd; stay straight onto John C Lodge Freeway. Turn Left onto Grand Blvd W; turn left onto Cass Ave, ending at Hotel St Regis.

West: I-94 East toward Detroit. Take M-14 (Exit 171) toward Plymouth. Keep left to take M-14 (Exit 42) toward Plymouth / Livonia (becomes I-96 E). Merge onto I-94 E toward Port Huron (Exit 190A). Take M-10 N exit (Exit 215B) toward Southfield; merge onto M-10 N / John C Lodge Freeway. Take the Milwaukee Ave exit (Exit 4C) toward W Grand Blvd. Keep left at the fork in the ramp and turn right onto Milwaukee St W. Turn left onto Cass Ave, ending at Hotel St Regis.



Register Today For The Michigan Optimists 2007-2008 First Quarter Conference Hotel St. Regis, 3071 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit MI 48202

Friday, November 9, 2007
Saturday, November 10, 2007
Sunday, November 11, 2007

Executive Board Meeting/Hospitality Room
General Business Meeting & Breakout Sessions:
Dinner and Motown Revue
Michigan District Optimist Family Breakfast



Please Use One Form Per Optimist Member!

Name: _____

Name for Badge: _____

Phone: () _____

Zone: _____

Club Name: _____

2007-2008 Office: _____

First Timer? Yes No

Any Special Meal Needs: _____

If attending, Spouse/Guest Name: _____

If attending, child's name(s) and age(s): _____

****General Session Starts @ 8:45 a.m. ****

Please check the Workshops and Round Tables you plan to attend:

- ___ Assistant and Lieutenant Governors Training
- ___ Presidents Training
- ___ Secretary/Treasurers Training
- ___ PGI (Personal Growth and Involvement)
- ___ Karas Institute Brain Defender program
- ___ Junior Golf Tournament (Round Table)
- ___ JOOI Youth Clubs (Round Table)
- ___ Essay Contest (Round Table)
- ___ Oratorical Contest (Round Table)
- ___ OI Foundation (Round Table)
- ___ Childhood Cancer Campaign (Round Table)

Please Check Which Activities You will Attend:

- Early Registration:** _____ @ \$35 = _____
Must be faxed or postmarked before October 26, 2007.
Registration includes coffee, lunch and meeting room charges.
- Late Registration:** _____ @ \$40 = _____
Faxed or postmarked after October 27, 2007.
Lunch **NOT** guaranteed.
- Spouse's and Guest's Activity:** _____ @ \$20 = _____
Take a tour of the Detroit Science Center featuring the Human Body Exhibit and Sea Monsters IMAX movie. Lunch INCLUDED. Leave hotel lobby at 8:45 a.m.
- Children's Activity:** _____ @ \$20 = _____
Take a tour of the Detroit Science Center featuring the Animal Grossology Exhibit and Planetarium show. Lunch INCLUDED.
- Past Governors' Breakfast:** _____ @ Free = _____
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- Assistant Governors' and Lieutenant Governors' Breakfast:** _____ @ Free = _____
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- First Timer's and Spouse's Continental Breakfast (8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.):** _____ @ Free = _____
- Saturday Evening Dinner:** _____ @ \$35 = _____
6:00 p.m. Reception for Optimist International Vice-President Earl Pollock and teammate Connie
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Motown Musical Entertainment
- Michigan District Optimists Family Breakfast:** _____ @ \$15 = _____
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Total: _____

Make Your Hotel Reservations Today!!

(Please mention that you are with the MI District Optimists)

Hotel St. Regis
3071 W. Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48202
(313) 873-3000

Make Reservations by October 20th

Room Rate: **\$89.00** (Superior King or Double)
\$129.00 (Executive King or Double)

Parking: **\$5.00** per day

Please Make Checks Payable To: **Michigan District Optimists**

Send or Fax Registration to:
Marc Katz, Secretary-Treasurer
2350 Oxford
Berkley, Michigan 48072-1740

Cell Phone: (248) 219-5949 Fax Number: (248) 281-0713

Please note Policy #C7: All requests for refunds of prepaid registrations must be made in writing by the pre-registered individual. Such requests must be received by the Convention Chair or Secretary-Treasurer before the last day of the convention.



Michigan District
Optimist International

Next OptiViews Deadline
December 1, 2007

Submit articles via e-mail to Nicole:
ingers007@yahoo.com

Websites

Michigan District
www.michiganoptimists.org

Optimist International
www.optimist.org

OptiViews Staff

Nicole M. Ingersoll
Chief Editor/Publisher

Linda Ingersoll
Co-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.

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Michigan District of Optimist International
536 Green Street
South Haven, Michigan 49090-1432

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Optimist International Mission Statement:

"By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids."