



I Believe... Children Are Our Future

Karen Monville
MI District Governor

Happy New Year to all of you and I hope that you had a very merry holiday season. If you weren't able to attend our 1st Quarter Meeting in Lansing, you missed a great weekend of fun, fellowship, training and camaraderie. I think that everyone there enjoyed meeting our Optimist International President and his wife, Yves and Ginette Berthiaume. Yves is a terrific leader and brings a fresh approach to our organization. He also encourages us to "think outside the box". Those attending breakfast on Saturday morning know what I mean about expecting the unexpected with Yves. He showed up for breakfast dressed in frog pajamas and a hat with fake hair attached. As Yves says, he believes in putting fun in the meetings rather than all work.

Thanks to Dan and Lou Moss for their gracious hospitality serving as host couple. Yves and Ginette had a very event-filled four days while they were with us in the Michigan District. Dana and I met our International couple in Clinton Township on Thursday evening and we all attended the Clinton Township fundraiser, Bidz for Kidz. On Friday morning, we had the pleasure of attending the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce meeting, then headed to Mt. Clemens General Hospital for a tour of the Oncology unit. On Friday afternoon we traveled to Lansing for the District Meeting and finally on Sunday afternoon, Dan and Lou and Yves and Ginette visited the Optimist Ice Arena in Jackson. Yves and Ginette

enjoyed our District and send their thanks to each of you for your hospitality.

In addition, we had a great number of first timers who attended the 1st Quarter Meeting! I am optimistic that we will continue this trend throughout this optimist year. As if it couldn't get any better, we also had a surprise visit from the Governor and his family of the Central Ontario District, who stopped in briefly Saturday afternoon.

Finally, I'd like to extend a big thank you to Dan and Lou Moss and the Clinton Township Club, who met the challenge presented by Yves to build a new club by October 31st. The Central Macomb Optimist Club was organized on Wednesday, October 22, 2004 with 29 members. We also had a second club, the Optimist Club of Northville-Novi, that was organized on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 with 26 members. Thank you to Rich Bloom, Mike Seltzer, and the Southfield-Lathrup Club for building this club.

Dana and I had the pleasure of visiting 26 Installation Banquets and wished that we could have cloned ourselves to attend more. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone and hearing all of the great things your clubs do in your communities to "Bring Out The Best In Kids". We plan on visiting more clubs this year, so if you have any special events going on, let us know so that *optimistically* we can attend.

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Optimists In Action



O.I. President Visits Optimist Ice Arena

W.J. "Knobby" Walsh
MI District Past Governor

It is with extreme pride and pleasure to report that the Optimist International President Yves Berthiaume and his wife, Ginette were personal guests of mine at the Optimist Ice Arena in Jackson, MI on Sunday, November 7, 2004 following the 1st Quarter District Meeting in Lansing. The invitation to visit the Optimist Ice Arena was extended during the course of the meeting in Lansing with their reply being affirmative.



The Optimist Ice Arena is a real centerpiece with its offering of "Twice the Ice" availability in meeting the demands of both kids and adults in the community. President Yves and Ginette's reac-

tion to the arena was one of awe and a strong impression of serving and fulfilling our purpose for **"Bringing Out the Best In Kids."**

The arena was very busy during the time of their visit/tour with youth hockey teams performing on both the North and South rinks. It is probably worthy to mention that the North rink also carries a year-round ice surface so ice skating can be offered during the summer months as well.

This was the first time that a President from Optimist International has ever visited the Optimist Club of Jackson during the 64 year period of longevity for the club. This was a most enjoyable and memorable experience for me and one that will long be remembered as a part of my career with Optimist International.

Past Governor W.J. "Knobby" Walsh shows Optimist International President Yves Berthiaume and his wife, Ginette around the Jackson Optimist Ice Arena



Optimist Ice Arena - Jackson, Michigan
Established in August 1985

I Believe... (Continued from Page 1)

Optimist International recently announced that all U.S. Optimist Clubs have been granted group exemption and will now enjoy the benefits of 501(c)3 status. Basically, this means that your Club is now a charitable organization and eligible to receive charitable, tax-deductible donations and grants. Information has been sent to Club Presidents and there are forms that must be completed and returned to Optimist International, including changing your club's by-laws. Linda Owczarzak will serve as our District Chairperson

for completing and processing these forms. If you have any questions concerning this, please feel free to either contact Linda or Optimist International.

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Our 2nd Quarter Regional Meetings promise to offer more exciting and informative sessions for everyone. Immediate Past Governor Marc will be presenting awards to Honor and Distinguished clubs/presidents as well recognizing various members of his team. Governor-Elect Don Brose will be conducting a break-out session for Future District Leaders and the MI District will also be hosting our Optimist International Regional Vice President and his wife, Dee and Barbara Rushforth. In addition, you will also learn why our Region, under the leadership of Dee, is called "Dee's Peas". These are just a few of the many reasons why you won't want to miss the February Regional Meetings.

“Building A Future Where Every Kid Counts” \$1000 Bucks At-A-Tiime

Fatima Plater

MI District Optimist International Foundation Representative

Michigan District Optimists had fun donating **\$4,250 “bucks,”** at our 1st Quarter Meeting in Lansing. Metro Riverfront, Kalamazoo Breakfast and West Branch Optimist Clubs finished **1st, 2nd and 3rd place** in our theme basket contest.

All clubs who donated items for our afternoon live auction and evening silent auction will receive A&A points. Please check your district directory for Optimist International Foundation points awarded this year.

Our Michigan District goal this year is **\$60,000** and we're well on our way to its achievement. Your Michigan District OIF Committee is requesting that clubs participate in a **Past-Governor Look-A-Like Contest**. Each club is asked to bring a framed **4x6 framed** photograph of a club member dressed like a Past Governor represented in the photograph. Past Governors can participate, but

must not enter as themselves. A dollar a vote by those in attendance will determine the winner. The contest and vote will take place at each 2nd Quarter Regional Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Muskegon Harbor and the Best Western ConCorde, Clinton Township. The **overall** winner will be selected at our 3rd Quarter District Meeting at the Holiday Inn Livonia West.

Please send your Club Optimist International Foundation Representative for **special training** at the appropriate 2nd Quarter Regional Meeting. Your district committee is excited about the opportunity to share information regarding the **Optimist International Foundation** with your representatives. It's our hope to train them to increase your club's knowledge of our **Foundation** and how it benefits the youth we serve. We look forward to seeing you in February.

We Are Rising Stars

Don Brose

MI District Governor-Elect

The dead of winter. It's dark and cold. The world goes into a cocoon only to come out with the warmer winds of April. People stay inside, just hoping to get through the months until then. Except for Optimists.

The months of January and February are some of the busiest months of the year for most Optimist Clubs in Michigan. Two of my favorite activities are being planned and implemented. They take lots of work and they are truly rewarding. The Oratorical Contest is one of the best events that Optimist Clubs take on. Nothing is better than seeing a 12 year old nervously get out in front of all of us, and do something that they never thought they could. The pride they feel after their accomplishment is priceless. Youth Clubs are busy preparing for their annual convention in March. Seeing young Optimists from all over the state get together to support each other is truly inspirational. The date is Saturday, March 12 at Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills. If you have a JOOI club, we hope you'll make it a point to get your students there. If they're talented, encourage them to be a district officer. Your students will love you for it. It could be the best service project you do this year.

Winter is also the time that the Michigan District “Catches a Rising Star”. Actually **many** of them. We need leaders and we know you are out there. Plans are being made for an outstanding 2005-2006 Optimist year, and there are many positions available for you to rise in our organization. The Lieutenant Governor Position is the most enjoyable responsibilities that one can imagine. And the most important. You'll meet more great people than you could ever imagine. Committee Chairpersons are the workhorses who make our district run smoothly, and insure success. It's very rewarding work and fun as well. We have dozens of opportunities ranging from Achievements and Awards to Youth Clubs and everything in between. We're working on filling these positions now, so if you have a position in mind, call me at (248) 623-7900 or email me at broseelectric@msn.com, and attend the “Catch a Rising Star” program at your regional conference in February.

Your enthusiasm and Optimism is contagious. I'm confident that it will spread throughout Michigan and make this winter season great for thousands of young people.

From the Desk of the District Secretary-Treasurer

Linda Ingersoll
MI District Secretary-Treasurer

We are nearing the close of the 1st Quarter of the 2004-2005 Optimist year and have already celebrated many successes. Our District Meeting in Lansing provided an opportunity for great training and a strong basis for this administrative year. We had over 200 members and guests attend the sessions with almost 90 percent of those registering early. I want to offer my thanks for such a positive response. Your early registration provides for successful planning and efficiently run events.

Finances play such a vital role in the success of a club or a district. Each quarter, it is a challenge to collect dues, sponsor fundraisers and pay bills. This year, one of the few requirements for Honor Club is for a club to pay its financial obligations on time. As club members, have you paid your Club dues? As Club Treasurers, have you paid the District and International dues? Let's work together to reach our financial goals this year.

Optimist International is pleased to announce that it has obtained 501(c)3 group tax exemption status, which means that each individual club can also earn this classification. A packet of information is being mailed to each club outlining the process for securing this status. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org for more details on how this status can benefit your clubs.

As we start a new quarter, I look forward to continuing to provide support to your clubs. Let me know how I can assist you.

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

Michigan District Optimist - Hall of Fame

Marc D. Katz
MI District Hall of Fame Chair

The Michigan District Hall of Fame was established to reward good and effective leadership and to motivate good leaders to continue in a leadership capacity within the Michigan District. All optimists of the Michigan District can qualify for the Hall of Fame.

Following is the criteria, which is used for admission to the **HALL OF FAME**.

1. Ten years of service to Optimism as a member in good standing of an Optimist Club or Clubs in the Michigan District;
2. The nominee shall have held the office of Lieutenant Governor and shall have attained the status of either Distinguished President or Distinguished Lieutenant Governor;

3. The nominee shall have served at least twice as a Michigan District committee chairperson;
4. The nominee shall have served on two or more Michigan District committees other than as chairperson;
5. The nominee shall have demonstrated personal demeanor that is in keeping with the philosophy and goals of Optimist International and the Michigan District.

Send all nominations to Marc D. Katz, Immediate Past Governor, 2350 Oxford, Berkley, MI 48072-1740, no later than **April 1, 2005**. The nomination form can be found in the 2004-2005 Michigan District Optimist Directory.

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

“My Hero is...”

Sheryl L. Mitchell
MI District Oratorical Chair

The MI District Oratorical Contest is a wonderful event which is designed to inspire today's youth on how to motivate and inform others through the art of public speaking. 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 following is information for Optimist Clubs planning on participating in the 2005 Oratorical Contest.

Topic: “My Hero Is...”

When: *March 2005* - Club Contest(s) are held
April 2005 - Regional Contests are held
May 2005 - District Contest is held

Who: 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.

What Does Your Club Need to Do: All members can now view and conveniently print planning pages for any Optimist International Program from your home computer.

Go to: http://www.optimist.org/Publications/Oratorical_IPPG04.pdf to view the 2004-2005 Oratorical planning pages. To view the planning pages for any of the International Programs and Community Activities, please visit the forms and publications page.

Support merchandise for this program can be ordered through Shumsky Enterprises in the U.S. toll free at (877) 678-2582. For additional information, please contact Optimist International Programs Department by email at programs@optimist.org, or call (800) 500-8130, ext. 235.

Individual Optimist Clubs should hold their local contests during the month of March and early April. Regional contests should be held by April 16, 2005 so winners names and information can be printed on plaques and presented at the District Oratorical Contest. The MI District Contest will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005 at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting in Livonia, MI.

In addition, please notify me of the Oratorical Contest Chair for your club as well as the proposed date, time and location of your event. For additional information on rules, judging, etc. please visit the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me and/or your Regional Oratorical Chair (see below).

Sheryl L. Mitchell
Oratorical Contest Chair
(248) 709-2492 - Cell Phone
(248) 788-7512 - Home Phone
sherylwm@comcast.net

Region 1: (Zones 1, 8, 16, 20)

Contact: Lou Diechman
(989) 792-0358 or ldiechman@hotmail.com

Region 2: (Zones 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 19)

Contact: Kristie Carambula
(269) 488-7600 or kcarambu@kresanet.org

Contact: Laurie Jefsen
(269) 385-1536 or ljefsen@kresanet.org

Region 3: (Zones 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 25)

Contact: Clarkston JOOI Club with Don Brose
(248) 391-3073 - Home Phone
(248) 623-7900 - Work Phone
dbrose7166@aol.com

Region 4: (Zones 13, 14, 15)

Contact: Ms. Toni Hill
(589) 786-0336 or toni_hill@comcast.net

Region 5: (Zones 17, 23, 24)

Contact: Blondy Hester
(248) 552-0543 or ohbjh@earthlink.net

Contact: Annie Spearman-Sain
(313) 272-5360 or sain_7@msn.com

Easy as 1, 2, 3... Simple as P.G.I...

Janet Oord
MI District P.G.I. Chair

The P.G.I. program is designed to recognize members for their growth and involvement as Optimists. The Michigan District would like to see growth in the number of clubs and members involved in this rewarding program.

It really is as simple as 1, 2, 3...

1. Share P.G.I. passports and modules with members. A zone meeting, super zone meeting or a club meeting would be an excellent opportunity for this. A set of the P.G.I. modules is available for each club. You may call Optimist International Leadership Development Department at (314) 371-6000, ext. 242 to obtain a set. There is also information available on the Optimist website, www.optimist.org.
2. Keep track of progress. Each club can keep track of their member's progress using the "Club P.G.I. Tracking Form". A

club can then submit the names of members as they complete levels to the District Chair using the "P.G.I. Recognition Form".

3. The achievement will be submitted to Optimist International and the appropriate pin will be sent back to the District for presentation to the member.

This is a fun and cost free way to encourage and recognize members for their growth in Optimism. Let's take advantage of it! Remember that healthy Optimists make for healthy Optimist Clubs! Listed below you will find my contact information. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Janet Oord

Home: (269) 324-5975

Work: (269) 553-9326

joord@kresanet.org

Optimist International Junior Golf Championship

Harry Margo
MI District Junior Golf Championship Chair

FORRRRRE! It is time to think about organizing your local tournament so you can send boys and girls on to the District Tournament. First I would like to thank Duane Marlin and the Mason Optimist Club for the fantastic job they have done hosting the District Tournament the last three years.

If you are planning a local tournament, I must know: 1) the Name of the Club, and 2) the date of the tournament so we can estimate the number of golfers that will attend the District Tournament. It would also be helpful if you can estimate how many golfers you plan on sending to the District Tournament.

The 2005 District Junior Golf Tournament will be held **Monday, June 27, 2005** in **Grand Rapids, MI** at the **Elks Highlands** Golf Course at Grand Rapids Elks Lodge 48. This is the course in Grand Rapids that was a stop on the Senior PGA tour for 13 years. Please plan on attending the 2nd Quarter Regional Meetings in Muskegon Harbor or Clinton Township to pick up information on the tournament. **If you cannot attend one of the 2nd Quarter Regional Meetings, YOU MUST call me, Harry Margo at (616) 361-1167 during the day or send me an email at ceioffice3268@aol.com.** Please remember that I, Harry Margo MUST receive your applications for the District Tournament **NO LATER THAN June 25, 2005.**

On-site registration **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** – all entrants **MUST** be pre-registered AND have competed in a local tournament.

Pre-Qualifier Fees: Optimist International has requested that all local tournaments (pre-qualifying for the District tournament) help defray some of the costs that Optimist International incurs in running such a prestigious championship tournament by sending \$7.50 for each local tournament participant to the District Secretary-Treasurer. Each club will need to complete a 2005 OIJGC District Fee Report Form to show the number of participants in their pre-qualifying tournament and send it with their check for the fees.

The Michigan District would also like each club to donate a minimum of \$50 towards this event, so that we have funds available to send more golfers to Florida for the International Tournament. Our funds are limited this year, so we need your support. Checks should be made out to the **Michigan District** with a note that it is for Junior Golf and sent to **Linda Ingersoll, MI District Secretary-Treasurer at 536 Green Street, South Haven, MI 49090.**

Please see Page 8 for information on the Member-Celebrity Golf Fundraiser for OIJGC in this issue.

Member-Celebrity Golf Outing Fundraiser

Harry Margo, Fatima Plater, Marc Katz
Optimist International Foundation Committee

A Member-Celebrity Golf Fundraiser for the Optimist International Foundation and Junior Golf Championship will be held on **Sunday, May 1, 2005** at Heather Highlands Golf Course in Holly, MI. Shot gun start at 1:30 p.m. with Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$100.00 per person for golf, dinner and prizes (includes a \$35 donation). To have a celebrity join your foursome – pay their entry! If you just want to come to dinner, the cost will be \$55. If you'd like to sponsor a hole, the cost will be \$100.

There will be a hole-in-one contest, closest to the pin, longest drive,

and raffles. If you can donate something for a prize, please contact Harry Margo or Marc Katz.

If possible, please try to make up your own foursome. If not, we can put you with others if needed. Please see the registration form below, make a copy, complete it and follow the mailing instructions on the form. Our goal is 25 foursomes, which should raise a minimum of \$1,750 for the Optimist International Foundation and \$1,750 for the Junior Golf Tournament.

Submit Registration Forms NO LATER THAN April 26, 2005

Member-Celebrity Michigan District Fundraiser for the Optimist International Foundation and Junior Golf Championship

WHERE: Heather Highlands Golf Course
11450 East Holly Road
Holly, MI 48442

WHEN: Sunday, May 1, 2005
Tee off at 1:30 p.m. (Shot Gun start)
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$100.00 per person for golf, dinner and prizes (includes \$35.00 donation). To have a celebrity join your foursome, pay their entry! Make checks payable to **Michigan District Optimist**.

DONATIONS: Optimist International Foundation and to send additional Michigan District Junior Golf Championship entrants to the International Tournament in Florida.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____



Please complete information above and mail with check to arrive by
April 26, 2005 to Harry Margo, P.O. Box 2086, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

HOUSING RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

**Optimist International 87th Annual Convention
July 6-9, 2005**

Reservation Deadline: June 8, 2005



Reservation requests can be made on this form or by telephone. Please be certain to complete all information on the form. If making reservation by telephone, be certain to ask for reservations and mention you are with Optimist International. Confirmations will be sent after each reservation, modification and/or cancellation. Review your confirmation carefully. Please allow 14 days after any transaction for receipt of the confirmation. Mail or fax this form to the address below. Do not mail duplicate copies if faxing this form. Please send only one form if sharing a room.

Room Occupants

1) Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____ Postal Code/Zip _____ Country _____
Home Telephone number (_____) _____ Business Telephone number (_____) _____
Fax Number (_____) _____ E-mail _____
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Additional Occupants

2) Name _____
3) Name _____
4) Name _____

Headquarters Hotel (see hotel information and map on reverse side)

Requests will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

_____ Hilton New Orleans • Paydras at the Mississippi River • New Orleans, Louisiana 70140 • (800) HILTONS (445-8667)
(504) 561-0500 • (504) 568-1721 FAX

Accommodations Preferred

(Children under 17 stay free with parents)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single (1 bed/2 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> double (2 beds/2 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> non-smoking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triple (2 beds/3 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> quad (2 beds/4 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> smoking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physically impaired accessibility | <input type="checkbox"/> roll-a-way bed (extra charge) | |

Deposit Information

(US funds only or all major credit cards)

Please include a deposit to cover first night's stay plus applicable state and local taxes (currently 13% - subject to change) in effect at the time of check-in and a \$3 per night occupancy tax (subject to change) to guarantee your reservations.

- Enclosed is a check or money order for \$_____, payable to Hilton New Orleans Riverside.
 Enclosed is credit card information to guarantee the reservation. Note: the deposit will be charged immediately.

Card Type _____ Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Card Holder Name _____ Signature _____

By signing, I authorize my credit card amount to be charged in compliance with reservation/cancellation policies should I cancel my reservation.

Cancellations

Reservations deadline is June 8, 2005. Reservations received after the deadline will be on a space availability basis. Reservations cancelled within less than 72 hours of arrival and no shows will be charged by the hotel. The hotel charges a \$75.00 early departure fee if you change your departure date onsite.

Call for Candidates, Governor-Elect 2005-2006

Marc D. Katz

Candidate Qualifications Committee Chair

Candidates wishing to run for the position of Governor-Elect for the 2005-2006 Optimist year need to submit a letter of interest with their qualifications to Immediate Past Governor, Marc D. Katz, 2350 Oxford, Berkley, MI 48072-1740. Candidates will be inter-

viewed by the Candidate Qualifications Committee at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting in Livonia.

Candidates wishing to run must have served as a Club President and a Lieutenant Governor to be eligible to run for Governor-Elect.

2005 Optimist International Convention

The 87th Annual Optimist International Convention is heading to New Orleans, Louisiana on July 6-9, 2005. It may seem far away, but before you know it, it'll be here. 2005 Convention Registration and Housing forms are now available and can be found on the Optimist International Website. This year, Optimist International is also offering online registration. For more details go to www.optimist.org and click on the "International Convention - Register Online" link located on the homepage.

Important Dates to Remember

Early Bird Registration Deadline: April 15, 2005 - \$105.00

Advance Registration Deadline: June 1, 2005 - \$115.00

Housing Reservation Deadline: June 8, 2005

Please note the deadlines and remember that all Housing Reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis. The Hilton New Orleans Riverside will be the Optimist International Headquarters Hotel and the **only** hotel with discounted rates for Optimists. If planning on staying in the Hilton New Orleans Riverside be sure to make your reservations as early as possible. Hotel details are listed below and the Housing Reservation Request Form is located on Page 9.

If you have questions regarding the Optimist International Convention, please contact the Conventions Department by email at convention@optimist.org or by calling (800) 500-8130.

Hotel Information

Hotel Information	*Hilton New Orleans Riverside
Room rate	Single/Double - \$95 Triple/Quad - \$115
Railway charges	\$15
Rate Available	3 days before 3 days after
Parking fee	\$20 self (subject to charge)
Check-in/check-out times	3pm/12pm
Room Amenity	Coffee maker, iron/board, hair dryer, voice mail, two telephones, dataport, 2 Restaurants, 3 cocktail lounges, in-room dining, health club, 2 outdoor pools, handicap access, 24 hour room service, remote control TV, in-room movies, wireless internet and much more



Help your Club get a spring in its step with the organization's "Just Ask" movement which runs March 11-20, 2005. Similar to the tremendously popular "Red Ribbon Week," the "Just Ask" movement is designed to solicit questions and interest in your Club. Members should wear their "Just Ask" buttons to encourage such questions.



"People just don't show up and ask to become part of any Club," said Nick Prillaman, Chair of the Interna-

tional Member Services Committee. "If you want to ensure that your Club and District are going to grow and thrive, you need new volunteers and fresh energy. The best way to do that is to 'Just Ask' others to be an Optimist".

For more information about the "Just Ask" movement, contact the Membership Department at (800) 500-8130 or email: membership@optimist.org. Further information to assist your Club in promoting and conducting the "Just Ask" movement is also available at www.optimist.org.

Optimists In Action

Nicole Ingersoll
Editor

Welcome to my first edition of Optimist In Action. We're off to a tremendous start to the 2004-2005 Optimist year. Several Clubs have shared activities and fundraisers that they have done so far. This is a good time to see what new projects might work for your Club.

The Optimist Club of Jackson hosted a Student Government Day and took 20 sophomores and juniors to visit the Museum and state capitol in Lansing. The highlight of the day was having a picture taken in the Senate, a rare opportunity for the public to experience.

Yummy, yummy, spaghetti in my tummy! **The Alpena Optimist Club** held a Benefit Spaghetti Dinner and raised \$2,400 for the Childhood Cancer Campaign.

Nine Mile, between Harper and the I-94 entrance is looking very clean and free of debris since the **Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores** did their final highway cleanup for this year. The Club participates in this activity four times a year.

On November 11, Veteran's Day, **The Optimist Club of Auburn Hills** honored individuals from the Auburn Hills Police and Fire Departments. The event was held at the Public Safety building on the Auburn Hills campus.

It was 25 years in the making and **The Brighton Optimist Club** is proud to say that they had a helping hand in the development of an "alternative" educational system. In 2002, the Club pledged \$10,000 to help four 2004 Renaissance High School graduates begin their college careers. In September, the project was completed.

The Optimist Club of Reese is on a roll with spreading the word of Optimism. Last year the Optimists formed a chapter at Reese High School. This year a new chapter was formed at Reese Middle School, with about 25 new members. The Club has already planned a bake sale, a hay ride and penny drive. The new club is the Junior Rocket Optimist Club.

As part of the Youth Appreciation Program, **The Optimist Club of Downtown Detroit** presented a check for \$5,000 to the Wayne State University Scholarship Program. This brings the Club's total contribution to WSU to \$20,000 for 2003 and 2004!

The Optimist Club of Keego Harbor entertained 155 kids on October 28th with Pumpkin Decorating. Parents, grandparents, and friends watched as the kids transformed their pumpkins into funny and/or scary creations.

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo has been busy as a bee, Spelling Bee that is. About 11 Optimist Club members participated in the Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee. The money raised from each word spelled correctly benefited the Kalamazoo Area Ready-to-Read program. Over 1,500 books were purchased.

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

JOOI Governor Message

Ruth Wang
2004-2005 MI District JOOI Governor

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." – *Henry Ford*

It's the beginning of another great year! We are all Optimists and we love to help others, but it's important to embrace and listen to each other. Remember, two people can always accomplish three times as much as one person alone.

You can all be leaders! Motivate your fellow Optimist Members to get involved, spread Optimism and build JOOI Clubs. Tell them about JOOI and introduce them to the fun that can be had by build-

ing and/or working along side youth. Talk to them about the fun they'll have, and most importantly, show them the joy that comes from helping others, and making dreams a reality.

By bringing in new members, or better yet, introducing new JOOI clubs, we can work together to make a stronger and more positive impact on the communities we live in.

I'm excited to take responsibility as your JOOI Governor and I welcome the opportunity to help you build new JOOI clubs and/or hear some of your ideas.

Next OptiViews Deadline
March 11, 2005

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.

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