



OptiViews

Michigan District
Optimist International

Volume 28, Number 2

Jan/Feb/Mar 2008



**JOIN OUR
OPTIMIST FAMILY
AT THE
SECOND QUARTER
REGIONAL MEETINGS**

- February 9, 2008: Kalamazoo Valley Community College M-TEC
Kalamazoo, Michigan
- February 23, 2008: Oakland Schools Professional Development Center
Waterford, Michigan
- March 8, 2008: Soaring Eagle Inn & Conference Center
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Attend One or ALL Three Meetings! We Would Like to See You!

**For All Optimists from First Timers to Club Presidents
Everyone's Welcome!**

- Share Ideas About Successful Club Activities and Fundraisers
- Learn What's New and Upcoming in the Michigan District
- Participate in Discussion Central (Round Table Discussions)
- Become a District Leader with our "Catch a Rising Star" Program
- Meet Optimist Members of our Michigan District
- Work Towards a New PGI Level
- Get Involved in the Next Stage of the BrainDefender Program
- Obtain New Resources to Take Back to Your Club

2006-2007 Awards Program

Find Out if Your Club Achieved Honor or Distinguished Status

More Details Inside!!!



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WELCOME OUR THREE NEWEST CLUBS TO THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT FAMILY

The Optimist Club of Troy, The Optimist Club of Oak Park and Royal Oak Township, and The Delta Chi Optimist Club

Optimist Club of Troy

Gary Grimes
 Carol Bardelline
 Robert Gamelin
 Denise Beville
 Robin Brewer
 Carolyn Hallanger
 Deborah Gamelin
 John Hallanger
 Ann Hamilton
 Connie Lamphear
 Kim King
 Roxanne Larson
 Laura Kilasara
 Lisa Martin
 Chris Kraska
 Gwen McCain
 Ronald McKee
 Karen Rhodes-Parker
 James Mullen
 Lori Roberts
 Judith Parrott

Joyce Schieltz
 David Purvis
 Barbara Snider
 Dorothy Sterns
 Arlene Strain
 Witold Wasniewski
 Cindy Wing
 Ray Finocchio

Delta Chi Optimist Club

Rhonda Hollowell
 Latonia Stewart-Limmitt
 Hisan Richardson
 Marjorie Staten
 Akowa Willis
 Ivy Fields-Releford
 Maris Quaker
 Lamont Ramsey
 Cherron Ramsey
 Qiana Thrower
 Lushonn Blackhorn
 Jeannine Gant
 Maria Stanfield

Alicia Merkerson
 Keila Walls
 Richard Jones
 Hayward Little
 Wendy Shirley
 Fatima Plater
 Nina Shirley
 Terry Whitfield
 James Walls
 Gwen Shirley
 Jeanola Jackson
 Patricia Hollowell
 Lydia Little
 Kevin Hughes
 Chris Sadlen
 Ervin Fowlkes
 Ashaki Malone
 Maria Boko Bobo
 Shanna Reed
 Themilie Bush
 Carrie Clark
 Matthew Whitfield

Angela Gibson
 Porsha Mitchell
 Latanya Stevens
 Deliah O'Tero
 Ebony Solomon
 Tricia Edwards
 Tashawna Parker
 Bianca Graves
 Phillip Alexander
 Linda Pente
 Wilfred Hart
 Desiree Abdullah
 Latonya Bolden
Optimist Club of Oak Park
 and Royal Oak Township
 Sudha Sekhar
 Genevieve Pajulio
 Mishelle Kennedy
 Nikhol Atkins
 Devon Banks
 Leeonia Barnes
 Melvina Brown
 Henry Brown

William Daniel
 Jaya Doraiswamy
 Catherine Gafford
 Luther Gilford
 Nikki Grims
 Peggy Harper
 Edwann Holmes
 James Huston
 Herb Ivory
 Gilda Jacobs
 Gloria Jefferson
 Alicia Jones
 Geraldine Long-Foster
 Whitney McRipley
 Rita Merriweather
 Richard Munitz
 Alfreda Munitz
 Jerry Naftaly
 Marie Newberry
 Esha Price
 Herbert Smith
 Thomas Zerafa

BE PREPARED: Order your District Supplies Early!

Linda Brooks

lybb_1999@yahoo.com or (313) 836-2835

Michigan District Supplies Chairperson

Every young man who has ever been a Boy Scout can tell you their motto is "Be Prepared" for whatever. Most people know the Five Principle P's for Effective People—Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. I could go on and on with other quotes used by highly effective people who are aware of what it takes to be a success and avoid mishaps. But the bottom line is PLAN AHEAD for activities and programs that your club will sponsor during the year to avoid last minute pitfalls. If your club is going to conduct an Essay or Oratorical Contest, place your order now at www.optimiststuff.com for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place medallions, certificates, and gifts for students, judges, and your Chairperson. You

will avoid the "last minute" rush and the possibility of anything being out of stock or paying extra shipping charges-if you plan ahead.

The tri-color Michigan District polo shirt is still available in sizes Small-3XL for just \$35.00 each. Special thanks to all of you who stopped by the District Supplies Expo at the First Quarter Conference to purchase or to browse. The Expo gives you a chance to actually "see before you buy" Optimist items that are available from Shumsky. If there are items that you would like displayed at the Expo for possible purchase, please email Linda Brooks.



We Are Rolling Out the Red Carpet for Our New Members

Welcome Optimist Members Who Joined During 09/01/07—11/30/07

Alpena

Bud Pfeifer
Pat Pfeifer

Traverse City

David Barr
Milton Bulmann

Grand Rapids-Kent

P.J. Weber

Bay City

Richard Marter
John Thomas
Blair Moulthrop

Saginaw

Amy Harvey

West Branch

Pam Hodges
Aaron Sweeney

Niles

Karin Kappe

Riverfront-Niles

Amy Kuitse
Roger Antoniu
Mike Listenberger
Liz Capron
Joanne Krueger
Mike Marks

Renee Chism

John Smith

Toni Barstis

Mt. Pleasant-Sunrise

Andy Moore
Justin Mortier
Mark Smith
Joseph Zander

Downtown Flint

Dave Beaudoin

Auburn Hills

Lane Glenn

LMC-Bertrand Crossing

Nichole Hillock
Josh Demeulengere

Greater Muskegon

Donielle Routt
Amy Duncan

John Smith

Michelle Garzelloni

Muskegon Heights

Dorothy Collins

Battle Creek-Harper Creek

Debbie Sheets

Peggy Meyers

Christine Valenzuela

Cindy Artis

Marcia Magiera

Charlotte

Tim Vagts

William Taylor

Jack Van Chen

Ypsilanti

Joyce Henderson

J.T. Sangsland

Richard Koschalka

Lynn Stephens

Jan Hawkins

Lakes Area

Andi Sklar

Sandy Richards

Denise Leighton

Clarkston Area

Joan Patterson

Axel Girschner

Ann Mancour

Dowagiac

Leigh Rogner

Kim Purlee

Leon Dodd

Holly Area

Jack Hollands
Crystal Tyll

Southfield-Lathrup

John Zimmer

West Bloomfield

Deainna Husband

Ike Engelbaum

Robbie Walker

John Slayton

Brian Flagg

Byron Savage

Pontiac

Roselyn Northcross

Kelly Coalson

Mattie Vining

Donald Robinson

Portia McIntosh

Stacey Byck

Kari Olds

Cade Portia

Rebecca Claxton

Clinton Township Area

Karen Hessler

William Smith

Pat Keigher

Lori Fitzmaurice

Stephen Saph

Carol Hampton

Judith Colaluc

Laura Vogel

JOOI Counselors-Metro Detroit

Celia Wolfe

Robert Kakos

Wynetta Wright

Yvette Pinchem-Stewart

Mary James

Rosa Adams

Detroit-Northwest

Madison Moore
Michele Walker

Edwina Weiss

Angela Boyd

Le Andre Anthony

Jessie Halford

Marcia Nix

Mary Thompson

Brandy Jones

Joe Shields

Mark White

Tonya Banks

Johnel White

Traci Thompson

Rosalie Halford

Irvington Thomas

Wendy Hopkins

Juanita Mersier

Megann Jobson

Joyce Young

Brian Jones

Jeff Davis

Maurice Pope

Nate Brooks

Sharon Woods

Shelby Township Area

Paul McDaniel

Cheville McDaniel

Central Macomb

Bonnie Locke

Pat Miller

Terri Kowal

Richmond Area

Carolyn Uber

Dearborn

Julie Turla

Craig Wilcox

Detroit-Western Int'l

Michelle Rhea

Samuel Jackson

Shavell Coleman

Rodney Ross

Linda Therssen

Carmen Hill

Michael Lane

Cynthia Lane

Bishop Miller

Crystal Dean

Felicia Howard

Maurice Smith

Douglas Saulsberry

Sandra Bow

Dennis Smith

Berlinda Price

Sedrick Robinson

Linda Taylor

Ervin Arnold

Tyrone Jones

Sharie Hill

Janica Moore

Angela Williamson

Hayward Crawford

Royal Oak

Jackie Walker

Trevor Weston

Patricia Dunstan

Auburn Hills-Noon

Ronald Melchert

Lapeer

Tom Engelman

Brighton

Patricia Brown

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



(Continued from Page 3, NEW MEMBERS)

<u>St. Claire Shores</u>	<u>Battle Creek-Pennfield</u>	<u>Muskegon-Mona Shores</u>	<u>Clawson-Troy</u>	<u>Detroit-Hartford Community</u>
Sarah Roberts	Brenda Hunt	Joseph Meehan	Marisa Reisdorf	Iris Ayala
Denise Tujaka	<u>Gratiot County</u>	<u>Kalamazoo-Breakfast</u>	<u>Farmington Hills-Breakfast</u>	Kevin Fite
Heather Huber	Tammy Doan	Laurie Andrus	Nicole Kaminski	Marjennell Perry
Mary Carless	<u>Keego Harbor</u>	<u>Flint-Breakfast</u>	<u>Huron Valley</u>	Moses Brocks
<u>Downtown Detroit</u>	Kathy Sparkman	David Mendoza	Linda Erlich	Exie Carter
Ramiro Ramirez	Warren Black	Joseph Bushey	Beverly Spoor	Jacqueline Henderson
<u>Frankenmuth</u>	William Gischia	Laurence Macdonald	Doyle Carter	Jacqueline Phillips
Betty Matt	Richard Brown	<u>Bloomfield Hills</u>	Patricia Carter	Nicole Shorts
Betty Kischnick	<u>Anchor Bay</u>	Tom Guinn	Jim Swartzell	Helen Lucas
Justin Bamberg	Mike Kirsten	Scott Suomela	Tom Muldoon	Patricia Dewberry
Jeanne Golden	<u>Roseville</u>	Jay Cravens	Marilyn Sonderman	Ellen Rasool-Jabhel
<u>Scottville</u>	Shawn Wightman	Fernando Garcia	Denise Stefanick	Jacqueline Mathis
Nancy Sanford	Sandra Moussiaux	<u>Birmingham</u>	Mary McDonell	Jacqueline Estes
Julia Knodel	Andrea Glynn	Maria Harris	Richard Russell	Gloria McCollum
Byron Copley	Doris Rumpfelt	<u>Grand Blanc</u>	Coreena Storms	Annette Hankins
Kevin Kimes	<u>Detroit-New Prospect</u>	Delia Cappel	Orv Borg	Carol Dewberry
<u>Paw Paw</u>	Gena Fry	Cara Gatzka	Joe Erlich	Felicita Taylor
Maria Diaz	<u>Detroit-Metro Riverfront</u>	Jennifer Komondy	Joan Tucker	Inell Watt
Beth Dalian	Rhonda Hollowell	<u>Central Detroit</u>	Jeff Way	Cora Pearson
Marilyn Lenox-Bosma	Deleon Battle	Norvel Grady	Wayne Traxler	Eumiller Corbitt
Cindy Mount	<u>Decatur</u>	Mary Fletcher	Catherine Berocher	Laroy Taylor
Christine Meiners	George Skoropad	<u>Fenton Area</u>		
Diane Mierzejewski		Susan Phillips		



Essay Contest: “Today’s Choices Shape My Future”

Ray Finocchio

fino5592@sbcglobal.net or (248) 203-6635

Michigan District Essay Contest Chairperson

Is your Club preparing to participate in this year’s Essay Contest? Why not? Here are some reasons why your Club SHOULD be participating:

- ◆ It’s a low-cost project. Clubs can participate by awarding plaques or certificates to the top three winners.
- ◆ Scholarship opportunities – the winner at the Michigan District level is eligible to win a \$650 scholarship and a winner’s plaque.
- ◆ This is a great opportunity for your club to establish or build a relationship with your local school district (i.e. teachers, administrators, students, and parents). This can lead to potential new JOOI Clubs and more students participating in other Optimist activities.

- ◆ Publicity – Issue a press release announcing the contest and have the local newspaper publish it; issue a press release announcing the winners; make a presentation at the winner’s school

There is still plenty of time for your club to participate. **This year’s topic is “Today’s Choices Shape My Future”.** The essay must be between 400-500 words in length and the eligible students must be under the age of 19 as of December 31, 2007. Please contact your local school district and solicit their support and participation in the Essay Contest. Please contact **Ray Finocchio** if you would like assistance organizing the contest on your local club level.

All individual club essay winners must be submitted to Ray Finocchio no later than **February 28, 2008. (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

Great Job to Our New Member Sponsors During 09/01/07—11/30/07

Alpena

Mark Stoinski

Bud Pfeifer

Traverse City

John Rodge

Grand Rapids-Kent

Harry Margo

Bay City

Karen Monville

Polly Thomas

Guy Greve

Saginaw

Ron Platt

Niles

Rudy Kappe

Riverfront-Niles

Tom Majerek

Greater Muskegon

Wilma Ginman

Lynn Donley

Jim Donley

Muskegon Heights

Ronald Collins

Battle Creek-Harper Creek

David Jaques

Jeromy Myers

Brad Morris

Kathy Drain

Charlotte

Carl Ellinger

Michael Bruce

John Little

Mt. Pleasant-Sunrise

Michael Terwillinger

James Binder

Chuck Carlson

Downtown Flint

Mike Buckel

Ypsilanti

Jackie McClain

John Bloss

James Thorburn

Fenton Area

Jeff Phillips

Clarkston Area

Roger Diederich

Inga Girschner

Holly Area

Ardath Regan

Southfield-Lathrup

James Walker

West Bloomfield

Lee Jaffke

Allen Adelberg

Bob Schiller

Wesley Berry

Jeff Leib

Pontiac

Chris Northcross

Barbara Raby

James Bowie

Reginald Robinson

Monetta Foster

Lakes Area

Naomi Frenkel

Joe George

Turner Thompson

Detroit-Northwest

Charlie Pritchett

Sam Craig

Carolyn Wanzo

Michelle Anthony

Sean Davis

Secialue Porter

Henry Cade

Chui Karega

Eric Smith

Joyce Young

Terrence Oden

Brian Jones

Herb Strather

Detroit-Metro Riverfront

Sandra Battle

Frankenmuth

Bonnie Maurer

Betty Matt

Jerry Crawford

Judith Crawford

Detroit-Western Int'l

Dorothy Dean

Shawan Dortch

Sherrie Ross

Charlie King

Robert Saulsberry

Harriet Cosby

Patricia Henry

Detroit-Hartford Community

Verna Brocks

Shaeeda Williams

Herb Strather

Alicia Robinson

Jan McCrary

John Cosby

Cheryl Neason

Madge Anderson

JOOI Counselors-Metro Detroit

Indira Shelton-Pierce

Terri Markray

Catherine Tilles

Clinton Township Area

Lou Moss

Barry Burnham

Jennifer Marella

Kim Meltzer

Shaun Hampton

Toni Hill

Shelby Township Area

Lou Moss

Paul McDaniel

Central Macomb

Cindie Szarek

Richmond Area

Kevin Uber

St. Clair Shores

James Kaza

Geraldine Hofmann

Debbie Depape

Madelynne Cudney

Downtown Detroit

Anthony Madej

Auburn Hills Noon

Henry Knight

West Branch

Jane Hutchins

Teresa Conroy

Dowagiac

Tom Atkinson

Joe Underwood

Leon Dodd

LMC-Bertrand Crossing

Barbara Craig

Scottville

Dennis Dodson

William Knodell

Paw Paw

Sherry Thompson

Battle Creek-Pennfield

Robert Mann

Gratiot County

Barbara McKenzie

Lapeer

Kent Fanson

Brighton

Ruth Raft

Huron Valley

Barbara Workman

Julia Denton

David Labreche

Bill Murray

Keith Phillips

Scott Wittman

Michael Kowall

Toniann Miesel

Joe Cook

Bill Wozniak

Linda Erlich

Dianne Labreche

Birmingham

Tom Rowley

Royal Oak

Shella Mitchell

Jay Dunstan

David Richards

Scottville

Marvyn Kelsey

Lee Kimes

Bloomfield Hills

Norman Smith

Brian Mackenzie

Laura Marshall

Keego Harbor

Jodi Franke

Teri Giannetti

Terry Carlson

Donald Horkey

Anchor Bay

Holly Kirsten

Roseville

Barbara Miglio

Lois Arnott

Dearborn

Barry Hawthorne

Detroit-New Prospect

Velma Hall

Central Detroit

Lorenzer Frazier

Tom Dorsey

Decatur

Florence Skoropad

Muskegon-Mona Shores

Terrance O'Toole

Kalamazoo-Breakfast

Tim Andrus

Flint Breakfast

David Gray

Stephen Schlott

Donald Chambers

Grand Blanc

Carol Haller-Wedel

Dwight Phillips

Karen Coombs

Clawson-Troy

Gail Avey

Farmington Hills-Breakfast

Marguerite Smith



Catching Dreams—One Member At A Time!

Debra J. Berry

debinparis@sbcglobal.net or (248) 681-7231
Michigan District Membership Chairperson

It was just barely yesterday and we kicked off our new Optimist Year with a bang! Exciting things are in store – hang on, we are Daring 2 Dream and charting a new course; you are all along for the journey and the ride. Roll down that window and turn off the cruise control. Set your sights on the road ahead. The ultimate success of your Optimist goals this year *depends* on your ability to “stretch” beyond your comfort zone – doesn’t matter if you are a brand new Optimist or a seasoned veteran, you can take it to “Notches Unknown!” (just a little Emeril Lagasse-ese).

The good news is that since October 1st, the Michigan District has gained 44 brand new Optimists (mega-congrats to all of you and thanks to your sponsors!) but at the same time, club rosters are being “tweaked”, meaning we have lost 51 former Optimists. This equates to just a few members short of “breaking even”. As we Dare 2 Dream for all of the kids out there who need us – Let me ask you to consider these ideas:

- This one is easy! It’s time to break out that Cheerful Countenance, the one that you know you have and **Just Ask** someone to become a member of your club.
- Who doesn’t love a party? Use those Holiday gatherings as a good reason to invite someone new to meet all of you. Make ‘em feel special and needed and that they can make a difference in the life of a child! Then invite them to your regular meeting!
- Get wayyyyyyy ahead of the numbers game and conduct a **New Optimists Wanted (N.O.W.) event** – invite everyone you know who likes to help kids and get your club membership rocking! Many clubs have done so already.
- New Energy! Create and recruit a Membership Committee if you don’t already have one. Make it a second quarter goal to increase your membership and drink some wine to celebrate (more on this later!).
- Take advantage of the wealth of experience that we have in the district to help you increase your club motivation, stamina and community exposure. Have you met a fellow community resident who doesn’t even know there is an Optimist Club in your town? I Have! (Unbelievable - considering how dedicated many of us are!)

There was a colorful “new members” Dream Catcher on display at the First Quarter Conference in Detroit at the Michigan District Membership table – did you see your name on that list of new Optimists or Optimist sponsors? A big Yahoo and Thank You to all of those listed who “took the time” to ask someone to join us in optimism and are now part of Michigan District history making. *We are the largest district in the U.S. and the second largest in all of Optimist International.* We want to see your club represented on that dream catcher; I would love to fill the entire display with beautiful hearts and ribbons. At the First Quarter Conference, Governor Bob encouraged the Michigan District to Dare 2 Dream by building 33 new clubs in Michigan during this Optimist year. That equates to 1.5 clubs per zone – nothing to it, just stretch those ideas into a plan and then right into a new club.

CLUB TO CLUB CHALLENGE

If your club can bring me the highest # of new members between Oct. 1, 2007 and Feb. 1, 2008. I will personally deliver a great celebration to your club – a professional wine tasting party for 25, including food. To increase your chances, I will sweeten the pot for those who are almost there – you can include the new members you sponsor in a brand new club!

Like I said – Notches Unknown, Stretch It Baby, Do The N.O.W. and let’s Catch those Dreams, One Member At A Time!



“A New Hope”

Bob Schiller

migov0708@comcast.net or (248) 683-3192
Michigan District 2007-2008 Governor

As I write to my fellow Optimists I find myself pondering over a variety of emotions. This First Quarter has truly been a rollercoaster for us all. Together we experienced the excitement of beginning a new Optimist year. Together we experienced the sadness of losing loved ones. And together, we came from all over Michigan to celebrate the spirit of Optimism at our First Quarter Conference at the Hotel St. Regis in Detroit. New ideas were shared, new friendships were started, and a new energy, inspired by our fifty seven (57) “first-timers”, lifted our conviction to work harder to “bring out the best in children”. It was clear from the enthusiasm at the Conference that we will have a “three-peat” as a Distinguished District this year! In my closing remarks a challenge was made...no, a “dream” was expressed. We were once a district of 7,000 Optimist members. We were once the largest membership district in the world of Optimism. We can once again be what we once were, for we still are the Michigan District Optimists. We still lead through our actions, not just by our words.

Over the next quarter our fellow Optimists will engage in projects and events that will touch the lives of approximately 30,000 young people and their parents. You will instill in each and every one of them the understanding that optimism brings hope; a new hope where nothing is impossible if you “promise yourself” to commit heart and soul to your “dream”. You will bring in a new year that will be celebrated around the world in a spectacular display of renewed...hope.

But what about those in our communities that haven’t heard about our Optimist Clubs or those communities that don’t have an Optimist Club who “make all of their friends feel there is something in them”? What about the 102,000 additional children that once benefited from Optimist Clubs throughout Michigan that no longer have us to help them, to mentor them, to fan the flames... of hope? What are they to do this holiday season? What are they to look forward to this...New Year?

We have the answer in our hearts and in our optimist spirit; “By providing hope and a positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids”. This is, after all, the year where “Optimists Dare 2 Dream”! The “dream” expressed at the First Quarter Conference was “1.5 new clubs per Zone”. Our District target is thirty three (33) new clubs by the end of the year. So at your next Zone meeting, send at least one representative from your club and decide as a team, as the “Dream Team”, where your collective

efforts will be focused to build a new club. Will it be Oscoda, Livonia, Tawas, Pentwater, St. Charles, or Gaylord? The opportunities are limitless, the benefits to children are enormous, and, if we work as a team, the goal is easily achievable. In the next ninety (90) days, your Long Range Planning Committee has set a goal of 4013 members. Do you have a NOW meeting planned? Does your club need the energy and exuberance that new members bring to successful clubs? How will your club continue to provide the one emotion that we cannot live without...Hope?

As we plan and look forward to the Second Quarter Regional Meetings, Jane and I wish everyone a happy new year, the best of health, happiness, and success. Remember that together we weave a blanket of Optimism that warms those who experience our efforts and message. Know at the end of each day that you have provided “hope” for one more child because yesterday, today, and tomorrow you are part of the Michigan District Optimists where “Optimists Dare 2 Dream”!

Optimistic as Always,

Governor Bob





Catch a Rising Star— District Leaders Wanted for 2008-2009

Michael K. Seltzer

govmike08.09@gmail.com or (248) 705-9611

Michigan District 2007-2008 Governor-Elect

It's time! Time to stand up and get on board the leadership train. Second Quarter is here and that means there will be CATCH A RISING STAR breakout sessions at each Regional Meeting.

As I said at the First Quarter Conference, Governor Bob is going to have a great year and my job, our job, is to carry that momentum forward and have another great year. In order to do that we need leaders and committee members to accomplish our goals.

One of my goals for next year is to have at least 1/3 of our district leaders to be new faces from our membership. Some committees take a lot of work and some do not. Some require a lot of chutzpah and some just the willingness to get the job done. Any way you cut it, being a district leader or a committee member is a highly re-

warding experience. You will be amazed at your personal growth by taking up the challenge of leadership.

If you know what you would like to do, send me an email and tell me. If you want to do something but you are not sure yet – send me an email and tell me that. If you want to learn more first – send me an email and tell me that! THEN, show up at the one of the Second Quarter Regional Meetings: Feb. 9, Feb. 23 or Mar. 8 and come to CATCH A RISING STAR!

There are no limits to what we can do together as Optimists. I hope to see many Optimists at these meetings.

JOOI News

Amanda Cornwall

carpenoctem13@sbcglobal.net

Michigan District 2007-2008 JOOI Governor

We the JOOI Executive Board have been meeting basically every other Saturday since July. So far we have accomplished creating a T-shirt and Pin Design that goes hand-in-hand with Governor Bob Schiller's theme Dare 2 Dream. We figured that being an Optimist is all about discovering excellence so that more things can be achieved.

Ann Taylor, and Lieutenant Governors Sarah Bush, Kenneth Elmore, and Stephanie Tennis. We had a short meeting during the First Breakout Session where we discussed the new budget plan allotted to us and what we wanted to use the money for along with tentative JOOI conference dates. April 11th – 12th is when we plan on having our conference at Mason Middle School in Waterford. We are trying to have both Kettering and Mott High School co-sponsor the conference to really encompass all of Waterford. We also hope to have the BrainDefender program available to JOOI members who attend the conference.



FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW



JOOI PIN

In other news, we are trying to raise money so that we can buy t-shirts and pins to sell at the Second Quarter Conference and our JOOI Conference for \$10 a piece. We are also trying to make sweatshirts available for those who prefer them. So far we have done a can drive and raised over \$60.00 to go towards the cost of t-shirts. We plan on doing more fundraisers throughout December so that we can purchase the items.

The last thing we discussed is trying to have a JOOI summer picnic in August in Clawson. We would like to have it be a follow up to the conference and see how all of the JOOI members are getting along as well as using the things they learned at the conference. We hope to invite all of the JOOI clubs in Michigan, even though we know some of them may not attend because of distance.

Throughout the year we also hope to do things for other charities, including the Ronald McDonald house, numerous can drives for multiple places, presents for Lighthouse North, etc. This year should be very productive and everyone is excited and honored to be a part of this amazing experience!

At the First Quarter Conference, we had five JOOI members attend including Governor Amanda Cornwall, Secretary/Treasurer Ashley

Michigan District Governor Candidate Qualifications

Lou Moss

loumoss1@hotmail.com or (586) 566-7277

Michigan District Candidate Qualifications Chairperson

Serving as a district leader is another stretch in helping others while developing your own self-improvement. As Immediate Past Governor and current Candidates Qualifications Chair, I can tell you "it's an honor to serve" at the district level!

The committee (Don Brose, Michelle Kauffold, Harry Margo, Bob Schiller, Mike Seltzer) and I welcome leaders to "rise to the top" and submit their letter of intent to become the Michigan Optimist Governor in the year 2009-2010. A Governor-Elect candidate must be a past Lieutenant Governor and pass the interview process of the Candidates Qualifications Committee. The letter of intent should be submitted before the Third Quarter Conference, May 16 - 18, 2008.

Serving as Lieutenant Governor for the 2008-2009 Optimist year is an opportunity for a current or past Club President to help other Optimists in their Zone. The election is held at the Third Quarter Conference in May. Optimists interested in serving as Lieutenant Governor should speak with the current Lieutenant Governor for the election at the conference.

Any further questions, please contact me at loumoss1@hotmail.com, (586) 566-7277 or speak to any member of the committee.

It's an honor to serve as a district leader!

You'll be "Famous" as a Hall of Fame Member!

Lou Moss

loumoss1@hotmail.com or (586) 566-7277

Michigan District Hall of Fame Chairperson

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 of Optimist International.

All Optimists of the Michigan District can qualify for the Hall of Fame if they meet the following requirements:

- Served a minimum of ten years as an Optimist in the Michigan District
- Held the office of Lieutenant Governor
- Attained the status of Distinguished President, Distinguished Lieutenant Governor or District Governor
- Served at least twice as a Michigan District Committee Chair

- Served at least twice as a member (other than chair) of a Michigan District Committee
- Is a member in good standing within their club
- Is a member in good standing in the Michigan District
- Remains active by participating in club projects and activities

All Hall of Fame nominations must be submitted by **April 1, 2008**. The nomination form and further information can be found in the Michigan District Directory and on the Michigan District website, www.michiganoptimists.org.

Please submit nominations to:

Lou Moss, Hall of Fame Chair

14715 Holly Court, Shelby Township MI 48315

Past Governor Ben Lowery Needs Your Vote for OI Foundation Board

As Past Governor of the Michigan District and Past District Foundation Representative, I have again been asked to seek the office of Optimist International Foundation Board member. This is a four-year commitment and voting is done online. Only those who have made contributions to the Foundation in the amount of at least \$36.50 in the 2006-2007 Optimist year are eligible to vote. That means all of you who have made contributions to the Dime-A-Day program are eligible to vote online. The voting will take place starting March 1, 2008 to May 1, 2008. I ask each Michigan District Optimist who has made this contribution to please vote. Those who don't have a way to vote online can do so by phone, 1 (800) 500-8130. Michigan has been one of the largest Districts and supporters of the Optimist International

Foundation for many years. If only 50% of the US membership would make this contribution, the Foundation would be able to offer more scholarships and larger monetary amounts to students attending schools of higher learning. I ask you for your support and most of all for the children who will be the benefactors of your generosity. When March 1st comes around it is that time to vote, don't wait until later when we get too busy and forget. I look forward to serving you and all Optimists for the future of our children for there is no better way to say "Promise Yourself". Thank you for your membership as an Optimist.

Past Governor

Ben Lowery



“M” is for MICHIGAN and MORE New Clubs

Dwayne Baxa

dbaxa1@hfhs.org or (586) 749-1120

Michigan District New Club Building Chairperson



Greetings Michigan District Optimists!

Winter is here. I am sure by this time we have all pulled out our hats and mittens. I have one of mine shown above. Since we live in the mitten state, I thought I would use mine to ask you a question. We have all heard about the great Optimist Clubs in our District, but do you know where they are? Each snowflake on my mitten represents an Optimist Club. This kind of puts it in perspective. Notice all the white space in between. That means we have a lot of room for growth!

Building a new club is a great way to strengthen your own. In building a new club, you network with individuals in your club and in the new location. Reaching out to others to find new Optimists reaffirms our own optimism. Existing clubs can also work together to build a club. This interaction helps to strengthen inter-club ties.

Now is the time to start putting together a plan to build a new club. We have had two months of our Optimist year to get acclimated. I hope your clubs have placed into your goals to build a new club.

If you are interested in starting a new club, but don't know where to start, please contact me at dbaxa1@hfhs.org or 586-749-1120. You can also find helpful information at 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. Governor Bob Schiller has **Dared 2 Dream** of building two new clubs per Zone. Together we can make his dream a reality in this Optimist year.

Yours in Optimism,
Dwayne Baxa, New Club Building Chair



Childhood Cancer Campaign Update

Barry Blauer

b_blauer@yahoo.com or (248) 546-3563

Michigan District Childhood Cancer Campaign Chairperson

Hello Fellow Optimists,

It is great to bring you up to date on the "Optimists Dare 2 Dream" efforts under Governor Bob's leadership. As the year progresses, committees are working together to "Bring Out the Best in Kids". It is my pleasure, as the District Childhood Cancer Campaign Committee Chair to announce that a major focus for the Michigan District will be a CCC Telethon or Radiothon in June of 2008. As we all know, June is Childhood Cancer Campaign Month, proclaimed by our very own Past International President Dr. Michel Listenberger. So, please take videos and pictures of all of your events that relate to cancer, especially those efforts that are specifically targeted to Childhood Cancer. Then, send me copies at b_blauer@yahoo.com, or send them to Publicity & Sponsorship Chair Harriet Cosby at harriettcosby@yahoo.com so we can potentially use them for promotional efforts (a picture waiver would be a good idea).

As a quick overview, I am planning three major initiatives for this Optimist year for our Childhood Cancer Campaign:

- ☺ I have ordered **cancer awareness pins** to sell as a fund raiser. These are beautiful pins designed by the Southfield Lathrup Optimist Club a couple of years ago. I will have them with me at the Second Quarter Regional Meetings in. Any club that would like a supply may contact me.

- ☺ We are planning a **radiothon or telethon** to raise money for the Childhood Cancer Campaign. Details are being established, and I will continue to provide them as they develop.

- ☺ We will again have a **Childhood Cancer Walk** at the Third Quarter Meeting in May with details to follow.

There is also an Optimist International initiative now in progress - a **CCC Duck race**. For \$10 US/CN, you can buy a ticket for a yellow rubber duck. The top three ducks will win prizes. The race will be held at the Optimist International Convention in Grapevine, Texas next July 2008. I will have forms for this race at the Second Quarter Regional Meetings, or you can request them from me at bab4kids@yahoo.com.

I will be at each Regional Meeting. Please bring your success stories, pictures, and plans for this campaign. I look forward to meeting the Childhood Cancer Campaign Chairpersons from around the Michigan District.

Yours in Optimism,

Barry Blauer, Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC) Chairperson

**"PROVIDING THE CARE,
FINDING THE CURE"**



District Oratorical Contest Coming

Terry Carlson

tnpcarlson@yahoo.com or (248) 398-6347

Michigan District Oratorical Contest Chairperson



That's right, the District Oratorical Contest is coming May 17, 2008. So why write about it now? Well now is the time to have your local contests almost planned and scheduled for sometime in March. Haven't started? It's not too late but you need to start now. We have 5 Oratorical Contest Regions in the Michigan District and we have 5 chairpersons to run those Regional Contests. Below is the breakdown of which region your club winners will participate in and who the chairperson of the Regional Contest will be. As of this writing we do not have a contact person for Regions 4 and 5, so if there is anyone that would like to run a Regional Contest let me know. It really is much the same as a local contest but more communication to other clubs is required. I thought at the time I was doing them that it was easier than a local contest. Please step forward; you will be given a lot of information and support. Contact me at tnpcarlson@yahoo.com or call my cell 248-659-2733.

Region 1 **Lou Diechman** ldiechman@hotmail.com Phone: 989-792-0358, Address: 3274 Kettering, Saginaw, MI
Zones 1 and 3 and 5 less the Muskegon-Greater, Muskegon Mona Shores and Muskegon Heights.

Region 2 **Marc Stoinski** mark.stoinski@lafarge-na.com Phone 989-595-3549, Address: 3396 Gilbert Alpena, MI 49707
Zones 2, 4, 6, and 7 plus Muskegon-Greater, Muskegon Mona Shores and Muskegon Heights.

Region 3 **Marc Katz** marcgoblue1@gmail.com Home phone: 248-547-1233 Address: 2350 Oxford Rd Berkley, MI 48072
Zones 8, 10, 12 and 13. Regional contest at Royal Oak Boys and Girls club on April 19, 2008

Region 4 Zones 9, 11, 15 and 16

Region 5 Zones 14, 17, 18 and 19

Other things of interest: The topic this year is "Why Me, Why Not?". The website for all the rules and forms is www.optimist.org (highlight Members, then Club and Districts, then Programs/Activities, then Oratorical Contest.) When you look at that page, the first 3 clicks will give you everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask about an Oratorical Contest. I hope you have considered holding the local contest. Any questions you might have, please direct to your Regional Chair. See you in Lansing for the District Oratorical Contest. The winners of your club contest must be given to the Regional Chairs at least 1 week ahead of the Regional Contest, 2 weeks if possible. Mail 2 copies of the speech, application and birth certificates to the Regional Chairs. Also the Regional Chairs have been instructed to collect \$15.00 for each contestant in addition to the cost of putting on the contest. The money is used to run the Michigan District Oratorical Contest.



Plan Now for the Ultimate Optimist Experience: The Optimist International Convention

Don Brose

broseelectric@msn.com or (248) 736-8833

Michigan District Past Governor and Optimist International Ambassador

Optimists love "bringing out the best in kids". That's what we do. And we do it because of what's inside of us. Our heart...and our dreams lead us to great service and great achievements. We are inspired by members of our club, for we all need that family to give us ideas, to respond to our thoughts, and to give us encouragement. We are special. Yet a little extra support can certainly help. Here's a great way to become an even greater Optimist.

joy the camaraderie of people very much like you. It's for people who want to make their club better, appreciating the training of experts. It's for people who are looking for new fundraising and service ideas for their club. It's for people who want a voice in determining the future of our organization. Finally, it's for people who enjoy a great time in a great American city: Dallas, Texas.

The Optimist International Convention is for achievers. It's for leaders. It's for potential leaders. It's for people who want to be inspired by over 2000 outstanding people. It's for people who en-

Registration forms and hotel reservations are available at www.optimist.org. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. Michigan 2007-2008 Hospitality pins will be available at our Second Quarter Regional Meetings.

Optimists In Action

Julie Howes
Editor

The First Quarter of the 2007-2008 Optimist Year is off to a roaring start. Below is a summary of some of the many activities within our District:

Central Macomb Optimist Club provided an amazing Turkey Dinner at the Children's Home of Detroit. They also provided gifts for the children and a visit with Santa for those children who were interested and held a Santa Auction. The funds raised went to the **Richmond Optimist Club** and their literacy program, as well as the Imagineers program with **Shelby Township Area**.

Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe held a Youth Appreciation program, a Texas Hold 'Em fundraiser, as well as a Coats for the Cold collection. The Club was also featured in the *Grosse Pointe News* for their collection and donation of men's socks and cold weather gear to be distributed by Lost and Found Ministries.

The **Optimist Club of Ludington** held their annual Poinsettia sale. They have been receiving numerous cash donations from community individuals for the Childhood Cancer Campaign as well as donations of toys for cancer survivors and their siblings.

The **Evening Optimist Club of Greater Muskegon** continues to hold their popular Bingo fundraiser and also held a Student of the Month celebration at a local pizza restaurant.

Roseville Optimist Club sold gift certificates to Texas Roadhouse with 10% of the sales going to the Childhood Cancer Campaign. They also collected gifts to donate to the Salvation Army for distribution to area children.

The **Optimist Club of Saginaw** held a Youth Appreciation event for students from 29 schools!

The **Scottville Optimist Club** held their annual lunch for local veterans at the Scottville Optimist Hall. This event was also recognized in the *Ludington Daily News*.

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

Optimist Junior Golf Season Begins NOW!

Sherry Regiani

sregiani@comcast.net or (248) 625-5222

Michigan District Optimist Junior Golf Chairperson

No, I haven't lost my mind and yes, it's too cold to golf right now. But get ready: there are **BIG** changes at Optimist International this year, affecting local clubs who participate in Junior Golf Tournaments.

Per Optimist International: All clubs planning to hold a Junior Golf Pre-Qualifying Tournament must have their information listed on the OI website in January in order to be an official tournament.

Clubs need to plan NOW to set a weekend date for May 3rd – June 8th. You'll need to let me know your club's details right away, so it can be reported to Optimist International. More information is available on the web at www.optimist.org/GOLF. Follow the links under "How to Qualify" and see what's been posted for Michigan thus far.

Remember, the kids who qualify to advance to the District Tournament in Davison, MI receive an 18-hole practice round included in their entry fee.

Once the names are reported to me, they're posted at Davison. Kids and parents can call and schedule a time and date that works for them. All names and registrations need to be in by June 11 allowing everyone equal opportunity to get in their practice round.

Finally, any club can hold a basic golf outing for their junior golfers later in the summer without any commitment to the District or to Optimist International. You could make it a great entry-level experience and could even give simple lessons. Contact me if you'd like to discuss ideas. After all, junior golf attracts more non-Optimists than any other event we do!





EXTRA! EXTRA! Read All About It! Upcoming Regional Meetings Planned for ALL Michigan Optimists

Jan Oord

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

Michigan District Leadership Development Chairperson

The meetings may be smaller and shorter, but the learning will be Big, Big, Big! Three Regional Meetings are scheduled for Michigan District Optimists during the Second Quarter of our *Dare 2 Dream* year. Optimists will have the opportunity to learn with their District and Regional Leaders on an up close and personal level. Breakout sessions have been planned to appeal to and meet the needs of all Michigan District Optimists.

- Dr. Tom Karas so much enjoyed his time with the Optimists in Motown that he has agreed to attend all three regional meetings. Dr. Karas will facilitate a breakout session with additional information on the "Brain Defender" program.
- For Optimists working on achieving a level in the Personal Growth and Involvement Program, a PGI module will be presented.
- Governor Elect, Mike Seltzer, will facilitate "Catch a Rising Star" during which he will describe the many leadership opportunities the Michigan District has to offer.
- Governor Bob and Secretary-Treasurer Marc will meet with Club Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers.
- In addition to these opportunities, a number of round table discussions will be held on various Optimistic topics.

So come one and come all to learn with your regional Optimist friends!

Second Quarter Regional Meetings— We're Doing Things A Little Different. . .

Nicole M. Ingersoll

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

Michigan District Conferences and Conventions Chairperson

The Dare 2 Dream Team would like to encourage everyone to attend one or all of the Second Quarter Regional Meetings. We want to see every member from first timers to committee chairs to board of directors to club presidents. We have tried to make the meeting locations within a short driving distance of your club.

Here is the change for 2008...the Regional Meetings **ARE NOT** divided by the Michigan District Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 as in year's past. This year we have split the state by **Regions West, East, and North**. The clubs are grouped by their Zones and the Zones are divided into each Region in the following way:

Region West (February 9, 2008)—Zones 2, 4, 5 (West or North), 6, 8

Region East (February 23, 2008)—Zones 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Region North—Zone 1, 3, 5 (West or North), 7, 9

We understand if you or your fellow club members cannot make the specific meeting date for you Zone. That's why there are three meetings to choose from. We want everyone to have the opportunity to learn about what's new and upcoming in the Michigan District and to see your fellow Optimist friends. Please fill out the registration form on Page 15 and send it in with your payment.

Early registration is strongly encouraged!



Register Today For The Michigan Optimists 2007-2008 Second Quarter Regional Meeting



- Regions West:** **Saturday, February 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
M-Tec at Kalamazoo Valley Community College
7107 Elm Valley Drive, Kalamazoo MI 49009
- Region East:** **Saturday, February 23, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
Oakland Schools Professional Development Center
2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford MI 48823
- Region North:** **Saturday, March 8, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
Soaring Eagle Inn & Conference Center (formerly Holiday Inn)
5665 East Pickard Road, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

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: _____

Please Check Which Meeting You Will Attend:
If attending MORE THAN ONE meeting, the cost will be \$20.00 for each additional registration.

- Region West: February 9, 2008**
(Clubs in Zones 2, 4, 5, 6, 8)
M-Tec at Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Kalamazoo MI www.mteckvcc.com

Early Registration: _____ @ \$30 = _____
Must be faxed or postmarked before January 28, 2008.
Registration includes coffee, lunch and meeting room charges.

Late Registration: _____ @ \$40 = _____
Faxed or postmarked after January 28, 2008.
Lunch **NOT** guaranteed.
Total: _____

- Region East: February 23, 2008**
(Clubs in Zones 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19)
Oakland Schools Professional Development Center
Waterford MI www.oakland.k12.mi.us

Early Registration: _____ @ \$30 = _____
Must be faxed or postmarked before February 11, 2008.
Registration includes coffee, lunch and meeting room charges.

Late Registration: _____ @ \$40 = _____
Faxed or postmarked after February 11, 2008.
Lunch **NOT** guaranteed.
Total: _____

- Region North: March 8, 2008**
(Clubs in Zones 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)
Soaring Eagle Inn & Conference Center (formerly Holiday Inn)
Mt. Pleasant MI www.hiresort.com

Early Registration: _____ @ \$30 = _____
Must be faxed or postmarked before February 25, 2008.
Registration includes coffee, lunch and meeting room charges.

Late Registration: _____ @ \$40 = _____
Faxed or postmarked after February 25, 2008.
Lunch **NOT** guaranteed.
Total: _____

Registration Will Begin @ 8:00 a.m.
First Timers Orientation @ 8:30 a.m.
General Session Begins @ 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Highlights (subject to change)

Morning Sessions (Part 1)

- Catch a Rising Star
- Lt. Gov, Presidents, Sec-Treasurer Training
- Discussion Central: CCC, New Club Building, Membership

Morning Sessions (Part 2)

- Catch a Rising Star
- PGI Module
- Discussion Central: Oratorical Contest, Junior Golf, JOOI
- Brain Defender Program

Afternoon Session

- Presentation of 2006-2007 Michigan District Awards by Immediate Past Governor Lou Moss

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.

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

Send of Fax Registration to:
Marc Katz, Secretary-Treasurer
2350 Oxford, Berkley MI 48072
Cell Phone: (248) 219-5949 Fax Number: (248) 281-0713



Michigan District
Optimist International

Next OptiViews Deadline
March 1, 2008

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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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."