



OptiViews

Michigan District
Optimist International

Volume 26, Number 3

April/May/June 2006



What's Inside

Find Your Dutch Wooden Shoes... It's Tulip Time at The Third Quarter Meeting



Spring is in the air for the fast-approaching 3rd Quarter District Meeting. There is no better place to enjoy the great springtime feel than in Holland, Michigan. The Dutch spirit will be alive and well with the annual Tulip Time Festival winding down as we take center stage with our 3rd Quarter District Meeting at the beautiful Holiday Inn in Holland on May 19-21, 2006.



Don't Forget About The Hospitality Room

While the Executive Board is doing business the rest of us can enjoy the always popular "hospitality room". It's your welcoming event with good food, good drink, and great fellowship. So bring your Hawaiian shirts and leis...we're taking this one poolside.

"My Future is Bright Because. . ." Oratorical Contest District Finals

This is an event you won't want to miss. The District Finalists for the Oratorical Contest will take center stage on Saturday when they recite their winning speeches on the OI topic "My Future is Bright Because". Let's have a great turnout for this event and show the youth of this District that we are proud of their accomplishments.



From Newcomers to Presidents

Whether you regularly attend the Michigan District Optimists Meetings or if this will be your first one, you will surely take back to your clubs plenty of information and the great feeling of helping our youth succeed. We hope to see you in Holland.

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MI District Third Quarter Expo

Janet Oord

MI District Director of Committees

If you missed the EXPO at the First Quarter District Meeting it will be back this spring in Holland, MI on May 20. Come and peruse the displays in the EXPO and learn the latest in pertinent information, upcoming attractions and valuable resources available for your clubs.

The Michigan District Committee Update from the Second Quarter Regional Meetings can be found on the MI District website. Committee Chairpersons will periodically update the information. Please check it out at www.michiganoptimists.org

For further information please contact me via email: joord@kresanet.org or phone: (269) 324-5975



Illuminating our Youth

Don Brose

MI District Governor

Optimism in the Spring

It is the busiest time of the year for our 110 Optimist Clubs in Michigan. Did you know that in Michigan this time of the year there are more than 4 service projects taking place in our state every day? There are more than 2 fundraisers going on every week! We are busy people, and that is good. We are making that direct connection with young people which makes a difference in their lives. I applaud every member of our organization. We are special people. We are people who commit year after year to making the next generation better than the one before. We are Optimists.

Bringing out the Best in "More Kids"

I am very proud to report that as of April 1, 2006, we have introduced more than 400 people to the joy of being Optimists. If we go by Optimist International statistics, we are serving 14,000 new youth this year. I believe it is due to the understanding that we are really doing our fellow community leaders a huge favor by just asking them to join. They are honored to be asked to become a member of our organization, and they move quickly to be a part of us. I encourage everyone in our organization to bring in a member or two, for you are paying them the ultimate compliment and participating in the ultimate service project. Members you sponsor today will serve our youth for many years to come.

Club to Club Visitations – A Great Way to Share

During the past several months, I have had the opportunity to visit many clubs. We share so much. Most of all, we share the Optimist Creed. Everywhere I go the creed is the bond that binds us together. Yet we are different in so many ways. The club next door to us may have the idea which will allow our club to provide a

new exceptional service, or raise so much money we can truly serve our youth. Our district website contains a list of all clubs in Michigan, arranged by the day of the week that they meet. I encourage every club to take the initiative to visit another during the month of June or July. Skip your meeting that week, and head elsewhere. They'll reciprocate. Set it up now! Service organizations have done this for many, many years, and the stories of success are numerous.

Don't Miss Holland

Our Third Quarter District Conference in Holland, Michigan will not be simply a meeting. It will be an event. The tulips will be blooming, the sun will be shining, and the Optimism will flourish like never before. The Oratorical finals are always the highlight as the best of the best compete for the scholarship and the pride of being #1. I promise a different "twist" to the meeting that will keep you informed and entertained. Our entertainment for Saturday night promises to be just as good as "Eddie Barney and the Blues" was in November. Spouses' and children's activities will be wonderful. Remember, these meetings are not just for Club Presidents. They're for any Optimist member wanting to get more involved. Think about it. That might be you!

Thank You for everything you do. You are truly "Bringing out the Best in Kids"

~Don Brose

broseelectric@msn.com

H: (248) 391-3075 or C: (248) 736-8833



Aanndd...We're Growing!

Welcome Our New Members (as of 02/28/06)

Cassopolis

Lynn Kepner
Becky Maier
Sherrie Archer

Ludington

Katie Stewart

Battle Creek-Harper Creek

Riki Albert
Kathy Drain
Mat Pejakovick
Nancy Palmer
Buck Rauch

Phil Wartel

Rusty Wickwire

Cathy Wickwire

Rob Crain

Ericka Harman

John Prigun

Aimee Williams

Nichole Hennaut

William Morris

Austin Suedmeyer

Jack Waggoner

Steve Mueller

Waterford Township Breakfast

Diane Goad

Troy

Mary Kerwin

Holly Area

Jerry Regan

Andrea Beaudoin

Averil Keller

Rolo Backstetter

Aaron Oppenheimer

Royal Oak

Steve Teichow

Christie Prosper

Philip Sherman

Suzy Sherman

Roseville

Tim Burke

Debe Taylor

Heidi Barczak

Richard Taylor

Robert Taylor

Detroit-New Bethel

M L Douglas

Melvin Britton

Eliza Moon

Cynthia Miller

Kevin Rogers

Grand Rapids Kent

Denise Smith

Janet Holland

Amy Baar

Cyndi Devries

Frankenmuth

Karl Weiss

Scott Smock

Stacey Allen

Gisela Stanard

West Branch

Patsy Marchel

Jay Jacobs

Perry Shields

Berrien Springs

Margrace Ladd

Carol West

David Nelson

Erin Heins

Niles

Justin Panczak

Joann Krueger

Katie Cyr

Muskegon Mona Shores

James Oslund

Battle Creek

Jessica Mulder

Kalamazoo Breakfast

Patricia Moore

Diane Bussema

Barb Payne

Emily Yeagley

Brighton

Janice Smith

Alpena

Jamie Anschuetz

Nancy Smithem

Detroit-Central

Myrtle Jones

George Clarkson

Patricia Watkins

Robert Bee Jr

Detroit-Northwest

Eric Clinton

Kim Griffin

Hugh McKinney

Kenneth Siebert

Ron Smith

Lanore Rice

Monica Andrews

Detroit Metro Riverfront

Margeaux McDonald

Farmington Hills Breakfast

Robert Schulz

Detroit-Western International

Wanda Evans

Highland Park

Edna Young

Port Huron

Mckenzie Vicki

Clinton Township

Jennifer Marella

Andrea Baxa

Terry Martin

Elizabeth Hoffman

Don Wesley

Pittsfield Township

Jacques Anctil

Clarkston Area

Doug Jenkins

Susette Hart

Huron Valley

James Wilcox

Southfield Lathrup

Fred Pickens

Nadine Cook

Emily Lundgren

Charles Main

Sylvia Whitmer

Birmingham

Pratt Bill

Shelley Taub

Auburn Hills

Jessica Logan

Keego Harbor

Anthony Vrbensky

John Linemeyer

West Bloomfield

Ed Globe

Debbie Barber

University of Detroit Mercy

S Barkley

Shelby Area Township

Deborah Kita

Patsy Street

Grosse Pointe Lakeshore

Jim Krausmann

Mary Buchowski

Dearborn

Michelle Da Ros

Salvatore Gencarelli

Karen Karasinski

Nazih Hazime

Grand Rapids

Albert Calderon

Gratiot County

Sherry Weber

Tammy Windischhofer

Christine Ludlum

Monte Reichard

Davison

Mindy Renbarger

Christine Stephens

Flint Greater

Clyde Edwards

Lapeer

Thomas Gotham

Grand Blanc

Ronald Watchorn

Oakland Community College

Amber Cervantez

Jaci Habel

Caitlin Jackson

Natalie Niederhoffer

Tracy Manigold

Tiffany Shedlock

Robin Roe

Amy Vibber

Karen Wentz

Jackie Wojtkowicz

Michael Brennan

Brandon Buck

Bradley Rougeau

Nicole Seaman

Grant Francisco

Angel Majors

Steve Ogg

Kelly Mcree

**Congratulations Sponsors... Going for the Gold!**Cassopolis

Patricia Dresser
Michel Listenberger

Ludington

Melissa Young

Battle Creek-Harper Creek

David Jaques
Duncan Bailey
Leo Palmer

Dan Czak

Richard Brown

Jeromy Myers

James Hazel

Gary Gymer

Charles Medler

Waterfield Township Breakfast

Dennis Griffin

Troy

Shirley Darge

Holly Area

Ardath Regan

Angelique Regan

Denise Smith

Royal Oak

Gary Lelito Jr

Margaret Monroe

Cathy Pinkos

Highland Park

Brigitte Officer

Roseville

Lois Arnott
Richard Taylor
Carey Harris
Dominic Miglio

Salvatore Aiuto

Detroit-New Bethel

Andrew Smith Jr

Grand Rapids Kent

Sarah Gooden
Joyce Watson

Frankenmuth

James Bartels

Chris Stockwell

Nancy Haskins

West Branch

David Marston

Vicki Barnes

Mary Lowery

Berrien Springs

Charles Mauro

Rex Welch

Niles

Elizabeth Capron

Brent Braaksma

Muskegon Mona Shores

Ray Genter

Battle Creek

Gary Gymer

Kalamazoo Breakfast

Janet Oord
Cindy Courtade

Brighton

Robert Smith

Alpena

Cody Lancaster

Robert Murdock

Detroit-Central

David White

Demetrius Singleton

Thomas Dorsey

Lorenzer Frazier

Detroit-Northwest

Linda Brooks

Lamar Nowell

Langston Jones

Charles Pritchett

Herbert Strather

Terrence Oden

Detroit-Metro Riverfront

Betty Bruner

Detroit-Western International

Dorothy Dean

Clinton Township

Julienne Baxa

Dwayne Baxa

Lou Moss

Port Huron

Gilda Schott

Pittsfield Township

Michael Morehouse

Clarkston Area

Don Brose

John Merz

Huron Valley

Jack Miesel

Southfield Lathrup

Cherryl Thames

Thomas Lenhard

James Walker Jr

Birmingham

Sylvia Whitmer

Charles Moss

Auburn Hills

Charles Granger

Keego Harbor

Paul Lipson

Charles Compton

West Bloomfield

Donald Van Every

Louis Goutman

University Detroit Mercy

Nancy Gibney

Shelby Area Township

Lisa Manzella

Grosse Pointe Lakeshore

Jeff Schwarz

Nancy Grose

Dearborn

Reginald Cody

James O'Connor

Floyd Addison

Grand Rapids

Patrick Carlton

Gratiot County

Tina Travis

Penny Daniels

Karen Taylor

Davison

Linda Dahl

Earl Hershberger

Flint Greater

La Gussie Edwards

Lapeer

David Bryers

Grand Blanc

Jeanna Clifford

Oakland Community College

Samantha Rhein

Steve Ogg

Robert Ches

**Welcome Our Newest Club: Rochester Area
(as of 1/26/06)**

Linda Anger

Lodi Baartmans

Cheryl Bida

Gary Bida

Sonja Bressett

Don Brose

Ken Bryant

Diane Corrigan

Linda Davis Kirksey

Connie Delbello

Mike Helms

Enoua Hinspeter

Marc Katz

Doris Kennedy

Norm Kennedy

Darren Klein

Linda Koslowski

Carolyn Lautzenheiser

Greg Lautzenheiser

John Leighton

Kathy Leighton

Deb Loeser

Diane Midgeley

Ron Nossal

John Prosser

Bert Quinn

Carolyn Rafferty

James Rafferty

David Rupprecht

Lorri Schachinger

Laura Seriguchi

Robin Seriguchi

Bill Staperfenne

Thomas Stebbins

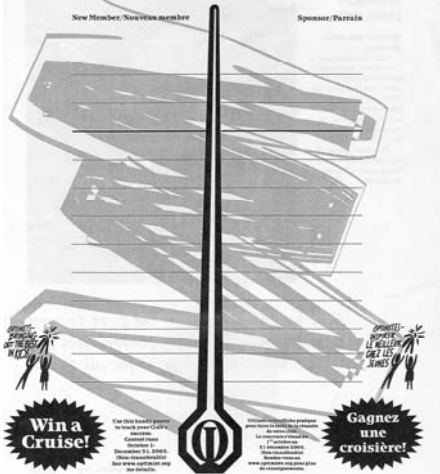
Sheila Tinnion

Jason Weir





How HOT IS YOUR CLUB?
VOTRE CLUB EST EN BONNE FORME?



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It's All About the Pins!

Don't forget, during the 2005-2006 Optimist year each member who sponsors a new member will be honored with a One-Member Sponsor Lapel Pin. Each Sponsor Member can wear the pin with pride, knowing they have impacted more children by introducing new members to Optimism.

You can also gauge your club's progress this year with the "How HOT is Your Club?" poster that was provided to each club president by Optimist International. It's a great visual to have at club meetings as a reminder to "Just Ask" and find new members.



"My Future is Bright Because..." 2005-2006 Oratorical Contest

David Lusk

qualitysolutions1@yahoo.com or (586) 749-9918

MI District Oratorical Contest Chairperson

The club oratorical contests are well underway and the latest information for the regional contests is as follows. Please note that there have been changes to sites and e-mails.

Region 1, Zones 1, 3 & 5

John McKendry

mckendjh@wnj.com

Saturday afternoon, April 29 (Noon-1:30 registration, 1:30-2:15 Female Contest, 2:15-3:00 Male Contest, 3:15 Recognition/Awards Presentation) at Norton Shores Library Community Room 705 Seminole Rd, Muskegon, MI 49441

Region 2, Zones 2, 4, 6 & 7

Tina Atkins

tina-atkins@excite.com

Wednesday afternoon, April 26 at Kalamazoo RESA, 1819 E Milham, Kalamazoo, MI 49002

Region 3, Zones 8, 10, 12 & 13

Terry Carlson

tnpcarlson@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 8 at Boys & Girls Club, 1545 E Lincoln, Royal Oak, MI

Region 4, Zones 9, 11, 15 & 16

Toni Hill

toni_hill@comcast.net

Saturday, April 1 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton Township, MI 48038

Region 5, Zones 14, 17, 18 & 19

Blondy Hester

blondy@talkamerica.net

Annie Spearman-Sain

sain_7@msn.com

Saturday, April 29 at Wayne County Community College

Please support your regional contest; each club will need to support their winners with an entry fee determined by the regional coordinator. This money will support not only the regional but the district contest as well. **Be sure to join us at the Third Quarter District Meeting in Holland on May 20 to hear the finalists from each region recite their winning speech.**

**District Tournament Update****Sherry Regiani**

sregiani@comcast.net

MI District Junior Golf Chairperson



Davison Country Club, Davison, MI, just East of Flint

Monday, June 19, 2006 for 10-11 and 12-13 year olds

Mon and Tues – June 19 and 20 for 14-15 and 16-18 year olds (36 holes!)

The clubs listed below will be hosting Junior Golf Local Qualifier Tournaments. If your club is not listed, and you DO plan to participate, please call me or email right away. District packets will be sent to each sponsoring club by the first week of April, including how your junior golfers register for their FREE practice round at Davison prior to the Tournament.

Date	Club Name	Golf Club	Division
5/7	Clarkston	Liberty Golf	all
5/13	Davison	Davison CC	all
5/20	Royal Oak	Royal Oak Golf Course	all
5/20	SCS – Grosse Pointes	St Clair Shores Country Club	no 10-11
5/27	Ann Arbor Noon	Brookside, Saline	all
5/28	Ludington	Lincoln Hills Golf Club	no 10-11
late May	Bay City Noon	Maple Leaf, Linwood	all
6/4	Grand Blanc	Woodfield CC	all
6/12	Harper Creek	Binder Park	14-15 and 16-18
6/12	Kent – Grand Rapids	Thornapple Pointe	no 10-11
6/15	Port Huron Noon	Black River	no 10-11
6/15	Farmington Hills	Glen Oaks	no 10-11
TBD	White Lake, Mona Shores, Muskegon	Lincoln Golf Club	all

There are several enhancements this year:

1. The older divisions (ages 14-15 and 16-18) will play in a two-day 36-hole tournament. Their scores will be sent to the National Junior Golf Scoreboard for ranking. This is where college coaches look for future collegiate golfers!
2. We will have a new policy for At-Large entrants, with an earlier application deadline of April 21, 2006. Those not selected for At-Large may still attempt to qualify at a local club tournament and will be sent information to that effect.
3. If your club would like to sponsor junior golfers – this is how and where to apply on the District Application. The District Application is available "ON-LINE"! Go to www.optimist.org and follow the links under Junior Golf – Championships – Schedule and scroll down to our dates in June. It is also possible to apply on-line by following the links on our application.

Still have questions? Call me at H: (248) 625-5222 or C: (248) 877-8110

Happy Golfing!



Optimist International Foundation

Jerry Woodthorp and Sheryl Mitchell
MI District Optimist International Foundation Representatives

The Optimist International Foundation provides funding for Essay and Oratorical Scholarships, the Junior Optimists Octagon International (JOOI) and youth programs. Many of you have participated in showing the willingness to give to the OI Foundation and have helped us support these many programs. We *thank-you* from the bottom of our hearts! Your participation has helped us in these tough economic times.

We would like to challenge each club to collect as many **Dime a Day** Sponsors as each club can, between now and the 3rd Quarter District Meeting in Holland, MI. We will have a prize for the club who has the most members signed up and submitting a check for that amount. We will need a representative from that club with checks in hand to be recognized. All members who participate will receive a Dime a Day pin. If we get just 50% of our members to contribute we will have given more than \$70,000 from the District. All we ask for is the \$36.50 from each member who can find it in their heart to support activities that *Bring Out the Best In Our Youth!*



At the 3rd Quarter District Meeting we will also have an opportunity for clubs and individuals to donate a basket of goodies that represents your community or the activities you do for the youth. At the dinner on Saturday we will have a silent auction for these baskets with the proceeds going to the OI Foundation. Wonderful prizes will be awarded to the baskets with the most outstanding (or outlandish) theme!



There are so many ways to support the Foundation. If you or your club is interested in donating a basket or other auction item or making a pledge, please contact the Michigan District Foundation Co-Chairs:

Jerry Woodthorp at (810) 658-2681 or jwoodt5577@aol.com
Sheryl Mitchell at 248.709.2492 or sherylw@comcast.net

“Providing the Care...Finding the Cure”

Shirley Williams
DSDWMS@aol.com

MI District Childhood Cancer Campaign Chairperson



Wow! Can you believe that we are already entering the 3rd quarter of this Optimist year? Before you know it, June will be staring us in our faces. I mention **June** because:

On December 10, 2004 our past International President, Yves Berthiaume signed a proclamation designating June, as *Optimist International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month*. That's why I am personally requesting your Club's support in this effort. We need your help to make June, 2006 a June to be remembered. If your Club has plans to take an active role in the CCC program, or has already done so, please send me a projection of your campaign goals, accomplishments and the name of your Chairperson.

Full participation and our combined efforts will greatly impact the campaign results and enhance the potential for realizing our vision of *“Providing the care...Finding the cure”*. The return on your investment of time, resources and money will be **ILLUMINATED** by the gratitude and appreciation expressed through smiles, thank-you's and the joy seen in the eyes of the children, care providers and family members. Please send me any information regarding your Club's plans, efforts, results and upcoming CCC events. Thank you in advance for your support of this program; together we can have a positive impact.

Shirley A. Williams
20190 Cooley
Detroit, Michigan 48219
Fax: (313) 534-0122
Phone: (248) 470-5879



What's Cooking? A New Club Building Update

Cherryl Thames
MI District New Club Building Chairperson



Michigan's 1st Children's Health – Special Interest Club: The East Shore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe set a new Charter Date for March 16th. This is a major collaborative partnership with the St. John Health System's - Van Elslander Cancer Center.



- ◆ U of M College Club is on its way – Fatima Plater and Evette Hollins are aiming to organize in March.
- ◆ Al Springer is working hard to build Junior and Octagon Clubs at Miller, Murphy, and Halley Middle Schools and Martin Luther King H.S.
- ◆ Sherry Regiani is building a Club in Ortonville. Charter date is planned for April.
- ◆ West Bloomfield is building a club in Walled Lake – way to go Dan Navarre and Bob Schiller.
- ◆ Kirtland Community College is on its way – Ben & Mary Lowery have the ball on this one.
- ◆ Velma Hall is building a club at New Morning Star Baptist Church
- ◆ Some young adults want to start a club in Detroit and Shirley Williams is making this happen.

Paradigm Shifts

For years we've heard people say if it's not broke leave it alone. This may have worked in another era but it doesn't serve us well in the 21st century. In fact, fixing what's not broke is what we need to move from good to great in New Club Building. In some circles it's called breaking the vase while in others it's thinking out of the box. Regardless of the terms used the bottom line is INNOVATION! As we step into the 2nd half of this 2005-06 Program Year let us all think spring – the season of growth, new beginnings, new ideas and Aha! moments.

The New C. P. R. Idea:

The C.P.R.
– Customized
– Personalized
– Relevant
approach to building new clubs is...

=

Meeting a community's needs in a way that works best for them and not so much about the way that it has always been done by us.

For example:

1. Non-traditional clubs
2. Seasonal Clubs
3. Chat rooms
4. Video-conferencing
5. Tele-conferencing
6. Single project clubs

So, for each of the following NCB commitments that are still on the back burner – here's a booster shot for you ...

Kettering University – Richard Holland
Southwest Detroit – Langston Jones
Holland – Harry Margo
Standish
Lakes Mall – John McKendry

Harper Creek – Alice Nash
Pickney – JoAnne Dodick
Highland Lakes/OCC – Debra Berry
Young Adults – Birmingham
Climax – John Willis

Detroit Far East-Annie Spearman-Sain
Warren
Oak Park



Please forward your contact information in these areas to the above Builder or:

Cherryl Thames, NCB Chair
18430 Middlesex Ave.
Lathrup Village, MI 48076

Phone: 248-559-5118
Email: CherrylThames@comcast.net



**P.G.I.
Catch the Excitement!**

Linda K Ingersoll
MI District PGI Chairperson



The P.G.I. (Personal Growth & Involvement) has been one of the best kept Optimist secrets for many years. Now is the time to spotlight the program and share in its benefits. PGI is a fun and cost free way to encourage 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 success of the program doesn't happen on its own. The clubs and zones that are benefiting from the program this year have appointed a local PGI chairperson and have encouraged and recognized member accomplishments.

PGI passports make it very easy for members to track their progress; they are available free of charge from OI. So far this year, the Michigan District has placed over 400 passports in the hands of our members.

This year we are challenging our PGI participants to go for the Gold and beyond. By completing the first seven levels of the program, the Gold Level, each member would have attended 20 club meetings, participated or chaired club and district activities, developed or improved their communication skills, and brought in 6 new members. WOW! Can you imagine how strong our clubs and the District could become if we help each other achieve these goals?! Many PGI participants are very close to completing one of the first seven levels; for most, the roadblock in completing the paperwork. Let's work together to win the Gold! 2005-2006 PGI successes so far include:

Level I	53	Level V	6
Level II	19	Level VI	5
Level III	3	Level VII	3
Level IV	2		

Look for the PGI display at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting which will list these individuals. We hope to post these successes on the Michigan website as well.

A greater stretch goal within the PGI program is to achieve Level X. Completing Levels VIII – X requires more involvement on a district level, taking on leadership responsibilities as well as earning the Builder of Excellence award for building a new club. The Michigan District has had several members reach this goal since this portion of the program began on October 1, 2000. Many are very close. Each year at the International OI Convention, members who have reached Level X are invited on stage by the OI President to be honored for their accomplishments. With our own Michel Listenberger as OI President this year, we would like to fill the stage with Michigan District Optimists. I am pleased to report we have 3 members that have reached this goal in 2005-2006. They are Michael Seltzer, Marc Katz and Cheryl Thames. Congratulations to all of you! Fantastic accomplishments! We have all benefited from your successes! We know there are several others that are very close to sharing in the spotlight – you have until June 1st to achieve this right. Let's work together to make this the best PGI year ever!

Please contact me for more information or if you would like help in starting the program for your club or zone. Share the excitement and successes!

Linda Ingersoll, PGI Chair
Phone: (269) 639-1871 (H) or (269) 217-0512 (C)
Email: lkingersoll@i2k.com



MI District Polo Shirts On Sale!

Linda Brooks
MI District Supplies Chairperson

HOORAY for Michigan District and the Red, White and Blue! Spring is coming and you can show your Michigan District Pride by purchasing a beautiful tri-color three button polo type shirt for just \$35.00. We have sizes available from medium - 2XL. If you would like to place an order or require a special size, please contact Linda Brooks at (313) 836-2835 or lybb_1999@yahoo.com. The shirts will be available for purchase at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting. See you there!



Growing a Club Can be Fun & Easy!

Dan Moss

danmoss@comcast.net

MI District Membership Chairperson

There are many ways to grow a club. Some ways are easier than others. Some clubs have more positive results. The good news is that there is no wrong way to grow a club. Let's focus on three of the tried and true ones.

The first way to grow your club is the simplest, **don't let members leave**. Not always possible, but in cases where a member wants to leave the club, (for reasons other than death, or moving out of the area), it is preventable. It goes back to the concept of "customer service". If we do not take care of our customers (current members), they are going to go someplace else. It is as simple as that. Take care of business and don't allow your club to get any smaller by losing your "best customers".

Next, and just as important in the process of growing your club, is the tried and true method of **JUST ASKING!** It's true. The absolutely best way to grow your club is to "**JUST ASK**" somebody who is not a member to check your club out. Invite them to a meeting or a function. The proof is in the pudding, as the old saying goes. Bringing them to a meeting will allow them to meet all the other wonderful Optimists you have grown to know and love. What better way to convince them than to bring them face to face with fellow Optimists?

This is why Optimist International had declared March as "**JUST ASK**" month and issued the presidents of all Optimist Clubs some "**JUST ASK**" buttons. I am asking you to take the challenge. Try wearing a button for one month and see how many people ask YOU about the button. Then, be sure to have a short elevator speech ready to respond when they ask, and don't forget to invite

them to the next meeting. It is that easy. **JUST ASK!** It doesn't have to be *March* to wear your button. Just commit to ANY thirty (30) day period and watch the reaction you get from others. It could make you a hero!

Finally, grow your club by doing something your club is doing anyway. That is, run new and interesting projects. Find projects that are not run of the mill and are unique to the community, something which will set you apart from all the other garage sales, fund raisers, or bake sales. Don't just run a "road clean-up" project; get the kids of some local school or church youth group involved. Work alongside them, and interact with them. This is what gets people excited! Anybody can clean up a ditch, but kids "adopt" the road and take pride in the work they are doing while they are tidying up their *world*.

Make projects unique, exciting and fun; invite others to participate. Once they find out how much fun they can have doing something useful, while working with kids, they will **actually seek you** out for membership. They might even wonder why you didn't ask them before!

So, as you can see, it is simple, easy and fun to grow your club. Just follow these three steps. 1.) Do what you should be doing anyway, **just do it better**; 2.) Remember to "**JUST ASK**", after all someone asked you; and, 3.) Be sure and **run new and interesting projects**. It is that simple.

For more information contact Dan Moss at (586) 566-7277.

2004-2005 District Awards

Karen Monville

MI District Immediate Past Governor

Congratulations again to all of the recipients of awards for their achievements during the 2004-2005 *I Believe Children Are Our Future* Optimist year. Please see the Michigan District website at www.michiganoptimists.org for a complete listing of all awards.

Special recognition goes to the following clubs who finished the year with a plus in membership,

but because they were less than 20 members on September 30, 2005, they did not receive the Honor Club recognition from Optimist International: Grand Rapids Kent +4, Pittsfield Township +2, and Gratiot County +2.

Thanks to all of the clubs and membership throughout the Michigan District for your hard work and successes during the 2004-2005 year.





Community Projects Awards (CPA) Changes

Maggie Rollinger

mrollinger@juno.com or (586) 777-5613

MI District CPA Chairperson

The Community Projects Awards (CPA) Program is an annual competition that recognizes Clubs for their community service, youth and fund raising activities. The evaluation criteria have been changed for the 2005-2006 year. The overall quality of the project including uniqueness and creativity will count for 90% of the total score. The book organization, documentation and compliance with the official rules will make up the final 10%.

Clubs **must use the 2005-2006** project story that is now available on the Optimist International website, www.optimist.org. The requested information has been modified and Clubs may lose points if they submit an old version of the project story.

There are now **ONLY** two categories in which books can be submitted: **Community Service and Fundraising**. Descriptions of these categories can be found at www.optimist.org. All entries must fit into these two categories.

Clubs should send CPA books to me by September 30th with a cover letter stating the Club name, category entered and date of shipment. Club entries should not be mailed directly to Optimist International.

Multiple Club projects will be evaluated against both single and multiple Club entries. Multiple Club summaries are no longer required as information on the activities of all participating Clubs should be included in the Project Story. Please remember that there is a restriction of 24 one-sided pages total for sections 2,3,4, and 5. Points will be deducted from books that exceed this page limit.

Please send complete CPA books to me at: Maggie Rollinger, 27848 Eastwick Sq., Roseville, MI 48066

2006-2007 Candidate Qualifications

Karen Monville

MI District Immediate Past Governor

It is that special time of the year when we plan and select our candidates for Governor-Elect and Lieutenant Governors. The selection of capable and willing district officers each year is the most important step a district takes toward assuring continued growth and progress. Competent leadership at the district level is vital not only for the district, but for Optimist International as a whole.

The ultimate choice, of course, is made by the clubs, since the Governor-Elect and Lieutenant Governors are elected by vote of club representatives at district meetings. The purpose of the district Candidate Qualifications Committee is to ensure that the clubs select from the best possible candidates for each office.

The offices of Governor-Elect and Lieutenant Governor are the only district offices filled each year by vote of club representatives at district meetings, and it is with candidates for these offices that the committee is concerned. The office of Governor is filled by automatic elevation of the Governor-Elect.

Lieutenant Governors are elected at the Third Quarter District Meeting, at which time each club president, or other official club representative in attendance, shall cast the votes to which his/her club is entitled.

The **Governor-Elect** will be elected at the District Convention in August. Members interested in this position must have served as a Club President, Lieutenant Governor and be a member in good standing. Your employer should understand that you will need some extra time off to fulfill the duties of Governor. You will have a year as Governor-Elect to prepare for the office. All candidates for Governor-Elect should submit their qualifications in writing to the Candidate Qualifications Committee Chair (Immediate Past Governor Karen Monville) no later than May 10, 2006. The qualifications should include offices held as an Optimist, and personal history that is relevant to your qualifications.

Please mail to **Karen Monville, 2800 N. Euclid, Bay City, MI 48706**. Candidates will be interviewed at the Third Quarter District Meeting in Holland.



The "Success Process" in Planning Ahead

Lou Moss

MI District Governor-Elect

It was great to meet with so many Optimists during the Second Quarter Regional Meeting "Catch A Rising Star" breakouts. Our team for the 2006-2007 Optimist year is growing. There are still many opportunities to serve as district committee chairs and members.

Recently, I had the pleasure to attend an Optimist International Regional Meeting with **Optimist International President Mike Listenberger**, Vice-President Ed Hyttenrauch and Governor Don Brose. It helped me to get a better understanding of district needs and great ideas for planning for the year ahead. Following is a good "path of success" that I "borrowed" from one of the participants:

The Success Process
Your dreams determine your goals
Your goals map out your actions
Your actions create results
And the results bring you success

That seemed to crystallize what we all need to do, plan from the first dream to realizing success. There is usually some good hard work that is involved, but I believe anything worth doing should be done to the best of our abilities. This applies to club projects such as Youth Appreciation, Junior Golf, N.O.W. (New Optimist Wanted) meetings as well as planning at the district level.

We have a wealth of opportunities within your clubs and the district to plan for success. I am looking forward to meeting with future leaders at the following:

- **Third Quarter District Meeting** - Saturday, May 20, Holland Holiday Inn and Conference Center - Lieutenant Governor-Elect Introduction
- **Optimist International Convention** - July 5 - 8, Nashville, Tennessee - Great training and information for all
- **Assistant Governors-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect Training** - Saturday, August 5, Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing
- **Michigan District Convention**, August 25-27, Windsor Hilton - President-Elect, Lieutenant Governors-Elect and Assistant Governors-Elect Breakouts
- **President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurers-Elect Training** - September 9, Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing

If we all plan now, we can "Expect Success" later. There is still time to join the 2006-2007 team.

You can reach me at (586) 566-7277 or loumoss1@hotmail.com.



Marc D. Katz

marcgoBLUE1@hotmail.com or (248) 219-5949

MI District Past Governor & OI Ambassador

Registration is open for the Optimist International Convention that will be held in Nashville, TN July 5th-8th at the Opryland Hotel. You can register online or you can download a registration form from the Optimist International website (www.optimist.org) or registration forms will be available at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting. The early registration (\$125) deadline is April 15, 2006. The Michigan District has a goal of 150 members pre-registered for the Convention. A tentative agenda for the Convention is available on the website.

The 2006 Convention is going to be the most important International Convention that many of us will ever attend. The proposed **Renewal Plan** that will affect the future of our organization will be presented to the Convention Delegates for approval.

The Michigan District Hospitality Pins will be available at the 3rd Quarter District Meeting in Holland. The cost again this year is \$10 and there are a limited number of pins available. The funds raised from the sale of the pins are used to pay for the Hospitality Room at the OI Convention and Michigan always has one of the best Hospitality Rooms of all of the Districts.

Also, at the International Convention there will be a walk around the Opryland Hotel Complex with the proceeds going to a scholarship fund in memory of Carrie Listenberger, daughter of OI President Michel Listenberger and First Lady Judy. More information will be forthcoming about the walk.



Optimists In Action

Julie Howes
Editor

There are some wonderful projects and fundraising activities occurring throughout the Michigan District. Following are some overviews of those activities.....

Optimist Club of Alpena held a Childhood Cancer Hockey Fund Raiser. Through the work of over 30 volunteers they raised approximately \$5,000 for the Cancer Fund despite a snow storm the evening of the event!

The Brighton Optimist Club held its annual Variety/Comedy night in February which has become a mid-winter tradition in Livingston County. The event featured a popular folk singer and also a comedian—who will be appearing on Comedy Central in April. This was a fundraiser for multiple projects for the club.

The Davison Optimist Club held their annual Big Brother/Big Sisters Bowling event to raise funds for this worthwhile group. The special guest bowler was the current Miss Michigan – Danelle Gay. The annual Camel Race was held the following weekend with proceeds going towards projects for the youth of the Davison community.

The Optimist Club of Grand Rapids is currently working on renovations for the Camp Optimist Lodge. This project involves procuring the renovation materials, donations of funds, labor for the installation of materials, and many other details.

The Optimist Club of Jackson is looking ahead to summer by sponsoring a baseball team in the Jackson Southwest Little League.

The Optimist Club of Ludington is currently involved in the OSCAR mentoring program. This program works with third grade students to help them learn the life-long fund that reading can bring and ultimately increase their reading level.

The Optimist Club of Reese recently hosted a Mother/Son Party as well as a Sweetheart Dance.

The following was the 'Thought for the Week' in a newsletter of the **Optimist Club of Greater Muskegon**-

Do more than exist.....LIVE! Do more than tough.....Feel!
Do more than look.....See! Do more than hear.....Listen!
Do more than talk.....Say Something!!!

Just a reminder—information for this article comes from club bulletins or emails received throughout the year. Please submit this information to:

Julie Howes
50 Grant Street
Galesburg, MI 49053-9621
JLHOWES217@aol.com



The Latest and Greatest with JOOI

Jean Dasuqi
MI District JOOI Advisor

March 18 was a beautiful Saturday with the sun shining bright. Inside Clarkston Jr. High School it was even brighter for the futures of the 40+ Optimist kids that came together for the 2006 JOOI Leadership Convention. It was a day filled with fun, food, old friends, information and elections. Special thanks to fellow adult Optimists that gave so generously of their time to make this a very worthwhile day, especially: Governor Don Brose, Governor-

Elect Lou Moss, Mike Page, Roger & Sandy Diederich, Rocco Ramano and Robin Brose.

Campaign speeches were given and elections were held for next year's JOOI district officers. How proud we were of all those who ran and gave their best in their willingness to commit to the district for an entire year. We hope that they will continue to seek leadership positions at both their club and District levels in the future. **The results were in as follows: Governor Elect: Tessa Hartley, from Clarkston Jr. High Optimist Club, Secretary/Treasurer: Katie Page, from Clarkston Jr. High Optimist Club, Lt. Governors: Katie Vondette, from Clarkston, Nick Kowalski from Waterford Kettering, and Amanda Cornwall from Clarkston.**

Many thanks to Governor Lindsay Hultman and her current district board members, Katie Page, Laurie Shields, Tessa Hartley, and the CHS Executive board for months of hard work and commitment.



Letter from OI President Dr. Michel Listenberger



My Fellow Optimists,

Spring is the time to "spring into action". During the Third Quarter we invite you to play baseball (each club president was sent a baseball poster and instructions). Go team and good luck!

Optimist Honor Roll: Is your club "plus" for the year and on the Honor Roll? Click "Honor Roll" on the home page of www.optimistleaders.org Note that all members of all Clubs will be so designated at our Nashville Convention. Presidents may also view their Club Growth Chart by clicking "View Chart" on your Club's Report Menu.

Nashville promises to be spectacular at the world famous "Opryland Hotel". Special guest speaker Joel Barker will speak on "Paradigms" and we will be entertained by country music star "Lee Greenwood." Register now!

Childhood Cancer Campaign is going strong as we present John's Hopkins Medical Research with a check for \$295,000 toward our million dollar goal. We are seeking a cure for Acute Myelogenous Leukemia, the second leading cause of child cancer deaths.

Elections are held in April. Seek your best and brightest leader for your year ahead!

Friend of Optimist memberships are now available for \$100 annually with \$40 of that amount going to the club listed on the application – what a great fund-raiser while spreading Optimism! Special recognition is available for recruitment into this program.

Bringing out the best in kids,

Michel Listenberger, OD

Dr. Michel Listenberger, President Optimist International

Third Quarter Convention Information

Directions

East: I-96 West to I-196 to Holland. Take the 16th St Exit (52). Turn West (right) onto 16th St. and drive to the second stop light (Waverly Rd). Turn South (left) onto Waverly Rd to the first stop light (24th St.) Turn West (right) onto 24th St. Holland Holiday Inn is on the left hand side.

North: US-127 South to I-96 and follow directions from "East" (see above)

South: US-131 North to M-89 West Allegan Exit (49A). Take M-89 West to M-40 North (Allegan). Take M-40 North to US-31 North. Turn North (right) onto US-31. Take US-31 North to 24th St. Turn East (right) onto 24th St. Holland Holiday Inn in on the right hand side.

Southwest: Take I-94 East following the signs to Detroit. Take I-196 West to Holland/Grand Rapids. Continue to US-31 into Holland. (Do not take the business loop). Turn East (right) onto 24th St. Holland Holiday Inn is on the right hand side.

Spouse's Activities

Everyone join us as we visit Dutch Village and Downtown Holland on Saturday, May 20th, 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Watch Klompen dancers perform to the music of an Amsterdam Street Organ. View the Dutch architecture, canals, windmills, and gardens at Dutch Village. We'll also watch a craftsman make wooden shoes. You'll have a chance to shop Downtown Holland's shopping district featuring art galleries, clothing shops, home accent stores, and specialty shops—all in a quaint setting. Lunch will be at a unique restaurant. Join us fun and fellowship!

Children's Activities

Craig's Cruisers has the fun!! Are you ready to race around on go-carts; hit some balls in the batting cages; play fun arcade games, finish up with a round of miniature golf and lunch? This is the place for you. (Recommended for ages 8 and older).

Golfing Anyone?

If you are interesting in playing golf on Friday, May 19th please contact Past Governor Harry Margo at (616) 891-8478 or ceioffice3268@aol.com. More details to come when available.



Register Today For The MI District 2005- 2006 3rd Quarter District Meeting

Friday, May 19, 2006 Executive Board Meeting/Hospitality Room
Saturday, May 20, 2006 General Business Meeting & Breakout Sessions
Sunday, May 21, 2006 Governor's Breakfast



Please Use **One** Form Per Optimist Member!

Name: _____

Name for Badge: _____

Phone: () _____

Zone: _____

Club Name: _____

2005-2006 Office: _____

First Timer? _____ Yes _____ No

Any Special Meal Needs: _____

If attending, Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Children's Names & Ages: _____

****General Session Starts @ 9:00 a.m. ****

Come listen to the spectacular speeches of our District Finalists in the **Oratorical Contest**, Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. It is a very moving and emotional experience.



Make Your Hotel Reservations Today!!

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

Holiday Inn - Holland
650 E. 24th St
Holland, MI
(800) 279-5286
www.holidayinnholland.com

Room Rate: \$95

Reservation Deadline is May 5th

Please Check Which Activities You will Attend:

- Early Registration:** _____ @ \$30 = _____
Must be faxed or postmarked before May 12, 2006. Registration includes coffee, lunch & meeting room changes.
- Late Registration:** _____ @ \$35 = _____
Faxed or postmarked after May 12, 2006. Lunch **NOT** guaranteed.
- Spouse's Activity:** _____ @ \$10 = _____
Enjoy Klompen Dancers perform, watch a craftsman make wooden shoes, shop in Downtown Holland. Lunch will be at a local restaurant (not included in price of activity).
- Children's Activity:** _____ @ \$15 = _____
Go-cart rides, miniature golf, batting cages, and arcade games at Craig's Cruisers. Lunch included. For ages 8+.
- Lt. Gov/Asst. Gov. Breakfast:** _____ @ Free = _____
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
- Past Governors' Breakfast:** _____ @ Free = _____
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
- First Timer's Continental Breakfast (8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)** _____ @ Free = _____
- Saturday Night Dinner:** _____ @ \$35 = _____
(Business Dress Attire) Includes entertainment & cash bar
6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Governor's Reception
7:15 p.m. - ?? Dinner & Entertainment
- Governor's Breakfast:** _____ @ \$15 = _____
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Total: _____

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

Send or Fax Registration to:
Jerry Kelley, Secretary-Treasurer
3556 Cloverlawn
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Home Phone and Fax Number: (734) 434-8272

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
June 10, 2006**

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
Publisher/Editor

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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