



# OptiViews

Michigan District  
Optimist International

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## “Can You Feel It?”

**Bob Schiller**

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Michigan District 2007-2008 Governor



## What's Inside

What an exciting time for our Michigan District! N.O.W meetings have been ultra-successful, public service announcements (PSA) are starting to fill the airwaves, clubs have been hosting events at record numbers, Essay and Oratorical Contests are in full swing, and we have our first new "non-districted" International club due to the efforts of our Grand Blanc Optimists and Past Distinguished Governor Don Brose. I am pleased to announce that we are now 110 clubs strong with our newest club in Katmandu, Nepal under the leadership of President Mahesh Dahal. And speaking of new clubs, Past Governor Don Brose and Lieutenant Governor Jeanna Clifford will be chartering a second club at the University of Michigan – Flint under the leadership of President Scott Rider. Everyone knows our theme of "Optimists Dare 2 Dream" and President Scott has rallied our newest college club to host...yes host, the Region 4 Oratorical Contest for the Michigan District. If you look at our district there are at least four (4) new club building efforts underway. Can you feel it?

Our committees have been working furiously during the first half of the year building a foundation for the Michigan District Optimist to lead by example. We have major advertising efforts underway with our PSAs (public service announcements) and our TSAs (television service announcements), billboard advertising efforts, and our CCC-athon in June. Do the PSAs work? Just ask President Bob Simpson of the Traverse City Optimist Club ([Robert.K.Simpson@ssa.gov](mailto:Robert.K.Simpson@ssa.gov)) how they were able to "Dare 2 Dream" and how successful their efforts to market their club have been. Can you feel it now? The Essay Contest Committee set a new record for participation, our PGI Committee wants their own touring bus because of all the calls and visitations they have been making to your clubs, Membership is in the middle of a major publishing effort with the Oakland Press and their sister papers (see Chairperson Debbie Berry's article), and the list continues to grow!

The Michigan District was asked, and graciously excepted, to host a "Region" conference on **April 5, 2008** for all the Governors, their Secretary Treasurers, Leadership Teams, and Elects, for a one-day conference at the Hotel St. Regis in Detroit. This conference coincided with a **Michigan District Certified Club Builder Pilot program** that we were encouraged to develop through Optimist International and our very own OI Director Herb Strather. All Presidents, Past Governors, and members of clubs that would like to build a club in the next two years were cordially invited. Now you can feel it! **MOMENTUM! EXCITEMENT!!** We have past the point of hesitating to "dream" and now have embraced it. Michigan is where "Optimists Dare 2 Dream". As Optimists, you are looking at what is possible, not what is said to be impossible. Where daily struggles become a team effort to overcome, where we help not only our children, but those who care for them.

So, **join us** in Lansing at the Kellogg Center on May 16 – 18, 2008 for another fabulous conference and **celebrate** with us the splendor of our Oratorical Contest as our Regional winner's face-off for a \$1,500 scholarship. **Listen** to the latest updates about Optimist International from Immediate Past Optimist International President Ronnie Dunn. **Vote** for your next Lieutenant Governors and become more involved in deciding District policy. **Learn** from our outstanding Committees at the morning "Breakout" sessions. **Experience** our Saturday dinner where the presentation of Immediate Past Governor Lou's "Ring of Distinguished Office" will take place.

This is your Michigan District...our Michigan District...the best Optimist District in the world, where "Optimists Dare 2 Dream" and know "No Limits". **Can you feel it?...I can!!!**

Optimistic as Always, *Governor Bob*

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**We Are On a Positive Path For  
Bringing In New Members**  
Welcome Optimist Members Who Joined During 12/01/07—02/29/08

Traverse City

Robin Touzi

Grand Rapids-Kent

Don Petersen

Decatur

Robert Murau

David Krause

Greater Muskegon

Timmy Smith

Scottville

Robert Viglietti

Shelby

Noel Goodrow

Battle Creek-Harper Creek

Jason Feasel

Lapeer

Michael Hendrick

Huron Valley

Kitty Hudiburgh

Charles Hale

Debbie Barry

Royal Oak

Casimir Swastek

Southfield-Lathrup

Joel Edelson

Wanda Cook-Robinson

Detroit-Metro Riverfront

Lawanda Smith

Detroit-Western Int'l

Pamela Hudgens

Ludington

Barb Wood

West Bloomfield

Edward Anene

John Kuriakuz

Gwen Thomas

Mark Jeffries

Kim Schott

Pam Zajac

Steve Tapper

Auburn Hills-Noon

Michael Culpepper

Bettye Clark

Karen Adcock

Troy

Sharon Neighbors

Deb Montague

Carolyn Hansen

John Witt

Bloomfield Hills

Robert Dempster

Diane Harnisch

Lakes Area

Greg Bartelt

Penny Krohn

Lisa Van Wyk

Kimberly Kassner-Earley

James Viola

Bill Gessaman

Renee Babcock-Moussa

LMC-Bertrand Crossing

Jestina Wilhelm

Octavia Lyons

Ginger Smith

Roseville

Rosemary Rota

Mitch Rota

Central Detroit

Jacqueline Miller

Sheila Crowell

Mary Thompson

Maria Kane

Oak Park-Royal Oak Twp

Angela Diggs-Jackson

Sandra Gadd

Angela Brunke

Juanita Bell

Sharon Campbell

James Semark

Bay City

Amy Phillips

Frankenmuth

Richard Kirchner

Berrien Springs

Jerol Williams

Kalamazoo Breakfast

Mindy Miller

Mason

Phil Birdsall

Mt Pleasant-Sunrise

Maria Roberson

Emily Scott

Lucinda Clark

Dearborn

Rita Brincat

Warren Dubitsky

Clarkston Area

Gwen Cesario

Kris Ellsworth

Margo Dees

Janalee Grainer

Andrea Schroeder

Denise Bean

Waterford Twp-Breakfast

Michelle Compton

Julie Brown

William Maxfield

Gary Carey

Gail Haines

Detroit-Hartford Community

Brenda Slack

Winston Owens

Delta Chi

Brandi Parker

Latoya Hall-King

Martin Staten

Michelle King

Sylvia Thomas

Janean Brown

Prashon McCrary

Central Macomb

Rose Merecki

Barry Burnham

Whitehall-Whitelake Area

Amanda Tague

Toni Rose

Ralph Russo

Roxanne Twining-Russo

St Clair Shores

Joan Levine

Downtown Detroit

Margaret Neal-Thompson

Battle Creek

Thomas Hoisington

Arnold Burch

Steve McCormick

George Smith

Colin Flynn

Eric Perry

Mark Lambert

Battle Creek-Pennfield

Mary Ann Devries

Brighton

Lowell Garcia

Hartland

Toni Silsbe

Clawson-Troy

Penny Luebs

Pontiac

Ira Webb

Carla Lee

Donna Dulaney

Clinton Township Area

Dino Morelli

Farmington Hills-Breakfast

Jeff Stewart

Detroit-New Prospect

Fred Robinson

## Thank You New Member Sponsors for a Job Well Done During 12/01/07—2/29/08

<u>Traverse City</u>	<u>West Bloomfield</u>	<u>Roseville</u>	<u>Clarkston Area</u>	<u>Central Macomb</u>
John Rodge	Alan LaDuke	Catherine Surhigh	Jane Cocciolone	Elaine Lyon
<u>Grand Rapids-Kent</u>	John Keeler	John Surhigh	Michael Page	Pat Miller
Harry Margo	Wesley Berry	<u>Central Detroit</u>	Mark Schroeder	<u>St Clair Shores</u>
<u>Decatur</u>	Sheryl Mitchell	Lorenzer Frazier	Susan Ring	Madelynne Cudney
Edna Ralton	Bob Schiller	Tommy Watkins	<u>Waterford Twp-Breakfast</u>	<u>Dearborn</u>
<u>Greater Muskegon</u>	Joey Spano	<u>Oak Park-Royal Oak Twp</u>	Debra Berry	James O'Connor
Linda Donley	<u>Troy</u>	Sudha Sekhar	Shirley Chaffee	Randolph Dubitsky
<u>Scottville</u>	Deb Gamelin	Genevieve Pajulio	Darwin Johnson	<u>Downtown Detroit</u>
Louis Viglietti	Carol Bardelline	<u>Bay City</u>	Joyce Carey	Fred Rottach
<u>Shelby</u>	Judith Parrott	Jeff Staudacher	William Burr	<u>LMC-Bertrand Crossing</u>
Jon Anderson	<u>Auburn Hills-Noon</u>	<u>Frankenmuth</u>	<u>Southfield-Lathrup</u>	Dawn DeMorrow
<u>Battle Creek-Harper Creek</u>	Henry Knight	Marc Katz	Kevin Butts	<u>Whitehall-Whitelake Area</u>
Richard Brown	Brian Marzolf	<u>Berrien Springs</u>	Michael Seltzer	Norma Flahive
<u>Lapeer</u>	<u>Bloomfield Hills</u>	Rex Welch	<u>Detroit-Metro Riverfront</u>	Catherine Naghtin
John La Clair	Brian Mackenzie	<u>Ludington</u>	Fatima Plater	<u>Hartland</u>
<u>Huron Valley</u>	Karen Miller	Sally Olin	<u>Detroit-Western Int'l</u>	Barb Mattioli
Toniann Miesel	<u>Lakes Area</u>	<u>Mt Pleasant-Sunrise</u>	Erie Hudgens	<u>Clinton Township Area</u>
Bill Murray	Ian Daykin	Justin Mortier	<u>Detroit-Hartford Community</u>	Brenda Szalka
Barb Workman	Lou Goutman	James Binder	Jan McCrary	<u>Farmington Hills-Breakfast</u>
<u>Royal Oak</u>	Bob Schiller	<u>Battle Creek</u>	Renee Lee	Abe Aon
Marc Katz	Naomi Frenkel	Bob Zuhl	<u>Delta Chi</u>	<u>Detroit-New Prospect</u>
<u>Kalamazoo-Breakfast</u>	<u>Clawson-Troy</u>	<u>Battle Creek-Pennfield</u>	Marie Quaker	Blondy Hester
Laurie Jefsen	Tim Burns	Gary Lapekas	Marjorie Staten	
<u>Mason</u>	<u>Pontiac</u>	<u>Brighton</u>	Latonia Stewart-Limmitt	
Deb Birdsall	Monetta Foster	Greg Raft	Maria Bobo	



### And The Optimist International Candidates Are . . .

The Optimist International Candidate Qualifications Committee met on Friday, March 7, 2008 and released the list of candidates for Optimist International Vice President during the 2009-2010 Optimist Year. It is a great honor to announce that one of Michigan's own members, **Past Governor Marc Katz**, is one of eight candidates running for a Vice President position. Voting will take place at the Optimist International Convention this July in Grapevine, TX. Please encourage your club's voting delegate(s) to vote for Marc!

Past Governor **Ben Lowery** is seeking the office of Optimist International Foundation Board member. Online voting is now open and will continue through May 1, 2008. If you have contributed at least \$36.50 during the 2006-2007 Optimist year then you are eligible to vote. Show your support for a Michigan Optimist and go vote at [www.oifoundation.org](http://www.oifoundation.org).



## Membership is a Family Affair

Roger Diederich, 2006-2007 Michigan Club Service Chair

Submitted to *The Optimist Magazine* in Completion of Level VII PGI

I've been an Optimist member now for 18 years. I was the president of a local high school band booster group when I was asked to attend a meeting the following Wednesday morning with the Director of Music for the high school. He said he needed me there. I had no idea before hand that the meeting was an Optimist club meeting. I thought you're the boss so tell me where to be and when. He said he needed my opinion on what I would be observing. I attended the meeting and liked what I saw and heard. A few meetings later I was inducted. That was my beginning as an Optimist.

Three years later, after serving as 1st and 2nd Vice President, I was elected President of my club. It just so happened that my wife, Sandy, said I don't know what those Optimists are doing to you but it's working for the better. I mentioned to her that we had an oratorical contest coming up and we needed non-Optimist judges for the contest. She came and helped and loved it. Since she worked in another city than where our home club was located, she decided to join there. So as it turned out we were both club Presidents in two different zones the same year. Boy did we have a lot of Optimist pillow talk that year.

It was a great time to be a Michigan District Club President because we had a Governor that year 1991 – 1992, Bob DiGiulio, who was terrific. Governor Bob had great expectations and goals but more importantly he was an "I'll tell and show you how to get it done" kind of a guy". We did get it done for Governor Bob. He ended up a Distinguished Governor, Sandy ended up an Honor

Club President and I ended up a Distinguished Club President. My club added 33 new members doubling our starting number of members. We achieved the "Add a member or more a month" program with the A team and the B team approach. The twist was that the A team only had two members on it and the B team had the rest of the club of 33 on it. The A team won the game but nobody lost and we all ate steak. Since those early years both Sandy and I have served and chaired many District Committees. It is always a pleasure to show the pathway to new folks on the road of optimism. I've always felt it is a tag you're it type of organization. It's been my pleasure to have just sponsored my 53rd member to our club. Sandy has just sponsored our daughter as a Friend of Optimist and our daughter will be working to assist one of our Alpha clubs. The Alpha club of which our nine year old granddaughter, Emily, has just joined and been elected to an officer's position. Emily has been to our District Meetings in Michigan and participated as well at International Conventions with us. She says she just likes helping people and recently collected 400 DVD's and videos for a shelter in the Detroit area.

As you can see we now have three generations of Optimists and countless other Optimists we had the opportunity to hold the door open for. It has been my great pleasure to sponsor two members who ended up being Michigan District Governors...Past Governor Ardath Regan and Past Distinguished Governor Don Brose. Governor Don was our first Distinguished Governor since Bob DiGiulio. What goes around comes around they say, isn't it great? Tag you're it. Why not make Optimism a family affair for you.

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## Rechanneling the Artistic Talents of Our Youth

Chris Shults, Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo

Submitted to *The Optimist Magazine* in Completion of Level VII PGI

One day as I sat in my car waiting for a train I noticed the paintings and graffiti on the freight cars. I thought what a waste of talent; these paintings should be hanging in an art gallery. Instead they are on the side of railroad cars as a means used by gangs to identify them or done by kids who have nothing better to do with their time.

According to Webster's dictionary, optimism is "an inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and events or to anticipate the best possible outcome". Wouldn't it be great to locate these "artists" and provide them with a more positive structure to utilize their talent and energies?

One of the many ways Optimists can offer to "anticipate the best possible outcome" is through the Youth Appreciation program. This is a great approach to providing positive experiences and memories for youth. Clubs can recognize youth that have been involved in community service or school functions among other activities.

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo (BOCK) became involved with the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home School five years ago when the principal of the school became a member of BOCK. Over the years, the principal from the school has been involved in identifying youth from the school's Principal's Club so our club could recognize those students at our Youth Appreciation event.

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As club members we feel it is important to honor students from the Juvenile Home School who have been selected for following the rules and respecting the rights of others, which are some of the requirements to be in the Principal's Club. These students are seldom, if ever, recognized for anything other than the actions that put them in the Juvenile Home School in the first place, unlike their peers who are involved in sports and other activities.

BOCK invites the students, their parents or guardians, caseworkers and teachers to attend our breakfast meeting to share in their recognition. It is so gratifying to see these teens appear bashful, yet so proud of themselves—particularly when their parents are in attendance. These students are just as excited about the framed certificate we present them to remind them of their accomplishment as they are the gift card they can use to purchase a gift of their choice.

Our club does not stop with Youth Appreciation recognition. BOCK is giving these youth another occasion for recognition and creativity through a contest to design a new logo for the BOCK sweatshirts. Some of these same students have also donated art pieces they made for our Back-to-School Auction, which benefits other youth in the community with the purchase of new clothes and supplies for school.

As Optimist members we do not always know when or how we have touched the life of a child (or artist). We can only hope that the projects and events we hold in our communities may have an impact. "By providing hope and vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids".

Could it be that one or more of these students were the "artist" on a railroad car? Maybe so!



## **There is NO LIMIT to What We Can Accomplish TOGETHER!**

**Michael K. Seltzer**

[govmike08.09@gmail.com](mailto:govmike08.09@gmail.com) or (248) 705-9611

Michigan District 2007-2008 Governor-Elect

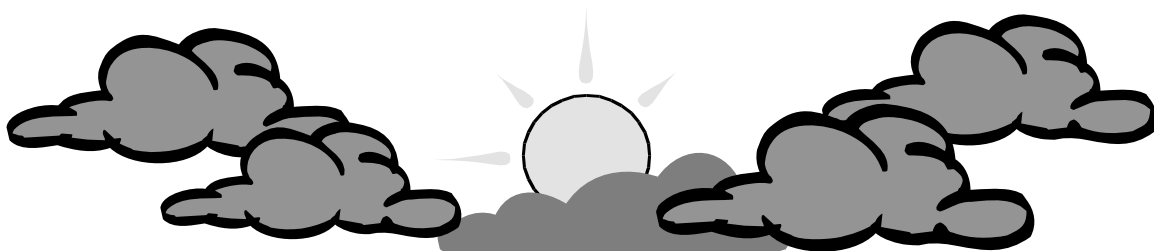
The year is flying by. We have done so much and have so much more to do. With all that is going on I am amazed at the number of Optimists that have taken the time to come forward and say, "How can I help?"

It takes almost 200 Optimists to run this district! If you include Club Presidents that number is 300. Oh yeah, 200 Optimists all marching in the same direction, all with the same purpose and all sharing the same goal at the end of the road. (This has been described as very similar to herding cats.)

We still need more leaders and just as important, we need committee members. Some committees really are a one person job but most need a team. The bigger the job of the committee, the bigger the team needed. By the way, most of our job descriptions say no experience needed. Really! So try it, you'll like it!!

All of this year's Lt Governors need to replace themselves. If you are a President – you qualify! So talk to each other (I hope you are any-ways). Anybody that has done the job of Lt. Governor will tell you it is the best leadership position in Optimism.

As individuals, we can each accomplish a lot. Because we are Optimists, we accomplish even more. Together, as a team, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together. See you all at Third Quarter in Lansing. Contact me and let me know you too want to help.





## Cheering Each Other On!

Debra J. Berry

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



A mile from the finish of the London Marathon, thousands of onlookers holding signs lined the route. When spectators spotted a family member or friend coming into view, they shouted the person's name, waved with excitement and yelled encouragement: "Just a little further! Keep going! You're almost there!" After running 25 miles, many competitors were barely walking and ready to quit. It was amazing to watch exhausted runners brighten and pick up the pace when they saw someone they knew or heard their name called out.

Encouragement! We all need it! Look around at your club members – could they use some words of support? Optimists can be a dedicated group – our commitment to the children propels us forward, helping our clubs succeed and bringing us together for the common goal, but sometimes the road looks long! Is your club member number going in the right direction??

Now that you have almost made it to the yearly "halfway" point, how have YOU started to meet or exceed your personal goals as an Optimist and a club member? If you have sponsored a new member to your club, are you remembering to urge others to do the same? If you have not done so already, hosting a New Optimists Wanted event is a turbo-charged way to insure that your club will cross the finish line on September 30 at Honor or Distinguished level. If you need help with a NOW meeting, please let us know. YOU have a bevy of experienced leaders in the Michigan District that can support you. Building up your club now can only mean fresh new energy and ideas to help reach more youth in your area.

After a resoundingly, hugely successful N. O.W. breakfast, the **Huron Valley Optimist Club got 19 NEW MEMBERS** – they captured the **First Quarter "CLUB TO CLUB" Challenge prize!** Extreme kudos to Barbara Workman and Toni Miesel and the rest of the club for their keen strategies to get interested folks to the NOW. The Huron Valley club will be receiving a professional Wine Tasting for 25 as a result of their efforts. Talk about cheers!

Again, I am offering a **Third Quarter "Club to Club" Challenge** to give all of you a chance to also get a wine tasting. Here's the scoop! Plan and execute your **New Optimists Wanted** event before May 1st, you must let me know your date – then I will call to see how many new members are brought into your club as a result. The club with the highest # of new members who attended your N.O.W. will get a wine tasting for 25 as a reward.

I say, do your NOW as a wine tasting, if you are so inclined. The possibilities are endless! Good luck and let me hear the cheers, from coast to coast! Rack up the bonus extra points you can earn on your next A & A report for a NOW and new members – it all adds up to a swift, clean sprint to the finish line! Have fun!



★★  
 ★ **Spring is Nature’s Way of Saying,** ★  
 ★ **“Let’s Party!” ~ Robin Williams** ★  
 ★ **Dwayne Baxa** ★  
 ★ dbaxa1@hfhs.org or (586) 749-1120 ★  
 ★ **Michigan District New Club Building Chairperson** ★  
 ★★



We all love a good party, and as they say, “The more the merrier.” For our Michigan District that means more members and more new clubs!

Spring is in the air. It renews us and invigorates us and gives the energy to Dare 2 Dream. What I am looking for is a shout out from all of you energetic club builders. Let me know how you are doing. There are several new clubs in the making and we can't wait to have them join our Michigan District Party. Anyone building a new club or considering building a new club, please contact me at [dbaxa1@hfhs.org](mailto:dbaxa1@hfhs.org). It's never too late to get started. And if you have received a letter from me asking for help in building a club near you, please have your club consider my request. Together we can get this party started.

**A Question. . .Or an Answer**  
**It’s Time for The District Oratorical Finals**

**Terry Carlson**  
[tnpcarlson@yahoo.com](mailto:tnpcarlson@yahoo.com) or (248) 398-6347  
 Michigan District Oratorical Contest Chairperson

“Why Me, Why Not” is the topic for the 2007 – 2008 Oratorical Contest. Youth from all over Michigan have pondered this topic in an effort to design a 4 – 5 minute speech that will lead them to a college scholarship. They have written and re-written their speeches, practiced and practiced their delivery a thousand times, and have faced all challenges at school and at our Optimist Clubs throughout Michigan, just to get ready for the Regional Oratorical Contests which still are underway. As they move forward, experience success, one can only wonder whether their original perception of our topic this year has taken on new meaning.

This is part of what makes the **Third Quarter District Conference** so exciting. To see and hear the possible orators of the future stand on our stage is truly an amazing sight and experience. If your club does not currently host an Oratorical Contest, you owe it to yourself and your club to attend the conference. You will experience competition at its best. You will experience the “stress” with each speaker’s oration. You will see the pride in every parent of every community as their son or daughter stands before a grand audience and begin with the words...“Why Me, Why Not”. You, my fellow Optimists, will experience a renewed sense of pride in your club, your member-

ship as an Optimist, and your involvement in our District. The Oratorical Contest is the second most popular event in Optimist International. Past winners include many successful people including a “pretty woman”, a redhead named Julia Roberts.



In our efforts to market our great District, this year’s event will be videotaped so that we may post each speech on “YouTube”. This will provide us with the opportunity to show all of Michigan why the Michigan District Optimists “Dare 2 Dream” and always “Bring Out the Best In Children”. If you only attend one conference this year (I hope this is not true), this is the one! This is a showcase of our district-wide efforts. This is the conference where we show our great State how well we work together.

So, instead of procrastinating, instead of sitting at home, come to our conference at the Kellogg Center in Lansing. Register now and join in one of the greatest events of the year! Besides, by participating you will discover the whether this year’s topic is...a Question...or an Answer.



## 2008 Michigan District Optimists Junior Golf Pre-Tournament Qualifier— Dates and Locations

Sherry Regiani

[sregiani@comcast.net](mailto:sregiani@comcast.net) or (248) 625-5222

Michigan District Optimist Junior Golf Chairperson

Sixteen clubs are participating in this year's program, leading to the District Tournament at Davison on June 16-17, 2008. Golfers who do not make the cut at one site are welcomed to try again at another location. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT MOST SITES.** Contact the appropriate chairperson for information.

Date	Club Name	Contact	Phone #	email
5/4	Clarkston	Sherry Regiani	248-625-5222	sregiani@comcast.net
5/4	Grand Blanc	Dan Draper	810-730-0369	BGOptimist@yahoo.com
5/4	Rochester	Alda Lentini	248-375-2292	aldalentini@sbcglobal.net
5/10	Jackson	Jason Coker	517-796-1415	JasonC77@sbcglobal.net
5/10	Southfield - Lathrup	Jeff Mueller	248-557-2600 x 225	info@lathrupvillage.org
5/17	Davison	Kurt Dunckel	810-653-1813	Panagc59@charter.net
5/17	Farmington	Dave Boyer	248-473-1820	dboyer@fhgov.com
5/17	Macomb Area	Jim Kaza	586-778-5152	jim1969@yahoo.com
5/17	Troy	Vito Wasniewski	248-720-8448	vitowas2000@yahoo.com
5/19	Niles - Noon	Dave VanStrein	269-465-4614	dbv@gncfcu.org
5/25	Ludington	Deb Wright	231-845-6445	LudingtonOptimist@yahoo.com
5/31	Royal Oak	Mike Ripinski	248-789-2735	mikrip@wowway.com
6/6	White Lake, Mona Shores Muskegon	Norma Flahive	231-894-8113	nflahive@verizon.net
6/8	Detroit-Central	Ann Johnson	248-505-4446	AnneJohnson112@sbcglobal.net
6/9	Kent-Grand Rapids	Harry Margo	616-361-1167	ceioffice3268@sbcglobal.net
6/13	Battle Creek - Harper Creek	John Peruzze	269-979-3045	*No email. MIGHT NOT GET IN PRACTICE ROUND AT DCC



## **Renewed Beginnings, Continued Successes**

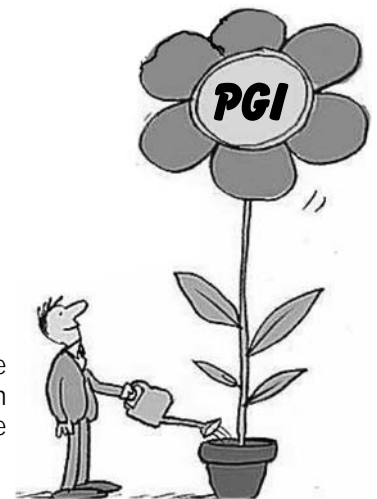
**Linda K. Ingersoll**

lkingersoll@i2k.com or (269) 639-1871  
Michigan District PGI Chairperson

Spring has arrived and the **Personal Growth & Involvement** program is experiencing a growing spurt within the Michigan District that it has not realized since the late 1990s. Program ideas were scattered like seeds and through the nurturing and encouragement of a member or two within many clubs, we are now seeing successes sprouting.

As you have heard many times before, the **PGI** program does not grow and thrive on its own, but takes individual club members to take the lead, help others track their successes and make the program a vital part of the club's activities. This year we have many such leaders in the district. Let's give a special thank-you to:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Lyn Lenox        | Breakfast Optimist Club of Kalamazoo        |
| Dennis Kallio    | Brighton Optimist Club                      |
| Lorenzer Frazier | Central Detroit Optimist Club               |
| Sherry Regiani   | Clarkston Optimist Club                     |
| Ron Morse        | Muskegon Heights Optimist Club              |
| Cherryl Thames   | Oak Park & Royal Oak Township Optimist Club |



This year we have taken the **PGI** program on the road. I have already visited the Clarkston and the Muskegon Heights Optimist Clubs and have visits scheduled for Kent of Grand Rapids, Troy, and Huron Valley Optimist Clubs. With many months still ahead in our Optimist year, let's get other clubs on the schedule.

Individuals have reached many levels of success in the program as well. We have had more than 50 members start the program and complete at least Level I. Currently we have 25 within one accomplishment of achieving Level VII (that of submitting an article to the *Optimist* magazine). I'm pleased to announce that we have one member, Lorenzer Frazier of Central Detroit Optimist Club, who has reached Level X during this 2007-2008 Optimist year. What an awesome accomplishment!

Each year at the Optimist International Convention, those members who have reached Level X are invited on stage with the international president and are recognized for their success. This year, Lorenzer will be among that elite group. It is not too late to join him on stage. The deadline this year is June 13. Let's live the dream.....complete those passports and head for the convention. I look forward to hearing from many more **PGI** champions.

.....

If you have ever wondered what some of the colored disc represent that members where behind their club pin please refer to the list below. It is the various levels of **PGI**.

- |                    |                 |                            |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Level I Bronze     | Level IV Blue   | Level VII Gold             |
| Level II Green     | Level V Black   | Level X Gold Lapel Backing |
| Level III Burgundy | Level VI Purple |                            |



## 2007-2008 Optimist International Foundation “Achieving the Extraordinary”

**Karen Monville**

[beacon646-misc@yahoo.com](mailto:beacon646-misc@yahoo.com) or (989) 992-6709

Michigan District Optimist International Foundation Representative



We are now five months into our Optimist year and our District donations thus far are about \$10,000, which is 1/3 of our goal of \$30,000 for the year. As of the end of the First Quarter, Michigan District is 6<sup>th</sup> in overall donations and 19<sup>th</sup> in per member donations. Thanks to all of you for your generosity and I'm *optimistic* we will see these numbers rise throughout the year

Our focus for this quarter is renewal of President Club memberships as well as adding new members to our President Club roster. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, won't you please do so ASAP? If you are interested in learning more about the President Club, please see me at a District meeting, or feel free to contact me.

Another focus for this quarter is Dime-a-Day donations. For only \$36.60 (this is Leap Year), you can support our District Foundation in this endeavor.

Please remember to bring your filled bricks to our Third Quarter District Conference in Lansing so that we can see how strong our Michigan District Foundation is becoming. If you need additional bricks, you can pick them up at a meeting or contact me and I will get some to you.

We will continue with our "I Am An Optimist" T-shirt sales throughout the year and I will also have "pin holders" available for a donation to the Foundation. We will also have a silent auction at our Third Quarter District Conference and welcome any donations you or your club would like to make to this event.

As an incentive to increase the Dime-a-Day donations and the filled bricks that are submitted by Saturday at the Third Quarter District Conference, I will provide two free registrations to the Optimist International Convention—one to the club that has the most number of Dime-a-Day donations and one to the club that has submitted the most filled bricks (bricks must have a minimum of \$50 to be considered).

The Optimist International Foundation provides funding for Essay and Oratorical Scholarships, JOOI and youth programs, and the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship, just to name a few. Many of you have participated in showing the willingness to give to the OI Foundation, and have helped us support these programs. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your participation has helped in these tough economic times. Again, thank you for your generosity in donating to the Optimist International Foundation. Remember, these donations are tax deductible.

## It's Election Time for The Michigan District!

**Lou Moss**

[loumoss1@hotmail.com](mailto:loumoss1@hotmail.com) or (586) 566-7277

Michigan District Candidate Qualifications Chairperson

Watching the latest news about the US Presidential race brings to mind the "Optimist Election Season"...just around the corner!

**Clubs:** By now, your club's slate of officers should be announced before the official election. The "Club Officer Elect Report" must be submitted to Optimist International before May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Zone:** Clubs in each zone will have the opportunity to elect their new Lieutenant Governor for the 2008-2009 Optimist year at the Third Quarter Conference. Although the Optimist year begins on October 1st, preparation for the job begins right after the election. Candidates must be either a past or current President of a club. The current Lieutenant Governor will conduct the election on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, during the morning session.

**District:** The election for the Governor-Elect (serving as Governor for the 2009-2010 Optimist year) will not take place until the District Convention in August. However, all letters of intent should be sent to me by May 12<sup>th</sup>. The letter should include offices held as an Optimist and personal history that is relevant to your qualifications. A Governor-Elect candidate must be a Past Lieutenant Governor and be approved by the Candidates Qualifications Committee. An interview by the committee will take place at the Third Quarter Conference.

Letters of intent should be sent via e-mail or US Mail: **Lou Moss, Candidates Qualifications Chair, 14725 Holly Court, Shelby Township, MI 48315.** 'Tis the season of Optimist elections, so get ready to vote at the club, zone and district soon!

## A Vacation that "Brings Out the Best in Children" The Optimist International Convention

**Don Brose**

[broseelectric@msn.com](mailto:broseelectric@msn.com) or (248) 736-8833

Michigan District Past Governor and Optimist International Ambassador



The metropolis of Dallas/Fort Worth is one of the most exciting tourist destinations in the world. From urban centers bustling with excitement to charming historic downtown squares, you'll uncover fantastic sights at every turn. You can tour the stockyards of Fort Worth, you can visit the JFK Museum in Dallas, you can enjoy some of the finest restaurants in America, and you can relax in one unique hotel, the Gaylord Grapevine.

I had an opportunity to visit the Gaylord Hotel in January, and it is truly spectacular. It's a vacation destination in itself, with a winding river flowing through an indoor courtyard full of nature and warmth. A free shuttle takes us to a quaint city of Grapevine, famous for its Texas style friendliness and its wineries. The area is simply a fabulous place to visit, and your attendance can serve another purpose...it can help you "Bring out the Best in Children".

Our convention will give you new ideas. Our convention will allow you to share your ideas. Our convention will allow you to meet new friends. Our convention will expose you to our diverse

organization. Our convention will provide great opportunities for FUN. Our convention will provide motivation. Our convention will entertain. Most importantly, our convention will strengthen your club. Because you attended, your club will be stronger, and the young people in your community will reap the benefits...the best motivation!

If you're into Optimist pins, we have a great one this year. The key to the hearts of kids hospitality pin is available for \$10, and will be available by contacting me (big discounts are available for quantities), or by attending the Third Quarter Conference in Lansing.

Early Bird registration for the convention ends on April 15. All of the registration and hotel information are available at [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

Join us in Texas...it will be a vacation you'll talk about for the rest of your years. Help your club "Bring out the Best in Children"



## Michigan District Childhood Cancer Campaign

**Barry Blauer**

[bab4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:bab4kids@yahoo.com) or (248) 546-3563

Michigan District Childhood Cancer Campaign Chairperson

It was great meeting with fellow Optimists during the Second Quarter Regional meetings to share information on a common focus, Childhood Cancer. At those meetings, we asked that press releases, photos, etc. be shared with our committee so that we may be able to use them in our 2007 - 2008 District effort to raise funds for this worthy cause. Each member that attended was also give special CCC pins to sell to their members and community. These funds will be used to help with the main focus of our fundraiser...to send 110 children with cancer to Camp Quality this summer. If you have sold pins and need more, or if you would like to get pins, please contact me at [bab4kids@yahoo.com](mailto:bab4kids@yahoo.com).

Camp Quality is a special needs organization that is endorsed by Optimist International. We are pleased to announce that there are now two camps that our children in need will visit this summer. One camp session will be held in Petoskey and the other in Fenton. Our collaboration provides us with the opportunity to expand our club programming through mentoring and volunteering to participate in the camp activities.

As we continue to work on the Michigan District Optimist CCC effort, we will keep you posted through notices on our District website [www.michiganoptimists.org](http://www.michiganoptimists.org). We are also working on a CCC Walk at the Third Quarter Conference. So, bring your walking shoes, we may have some special T-shirts available, or wear your "I Am An Optimist" Foundation shirt. Either way, join us in Lansing where we will continue to "bring out the best in kids"!

June is designated by Optimist International as Childhood Cancer month. If you haven't done an activity for CCC this would be a perfect time!



## JOOI Brings Excitement

Amanda Cornwall

[Carpenoctem13@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Carpenoctem13@sbcglobal.net)

Michigan District 2007-2008 JOOI Governor



# Michigan District JOOI Conference 2008



April 25/26, 2008

Crary Middle School  
501 N. Cass Lake Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48328

Come meet with other Junior Optimists from around the state. This conference will provide you with leadership skills and information necessary to make your JOOI club as successful as it can be.

Also, it will be a "BLAST"!



# Cost is Free!



### Friday Night Sleep Over: 6-12 grade. Starts at 6 pm.

- ♥ Pasta dinner, socializing, movies, gym, and games.
- ♥ You will need to bring a sleeping bag and any other accessories you may need.

### Saturday: All Clubs. From 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday Activities include: guest speakers, officer elections, breakout sessions, Leader Dogs, Parliamentary procedures, finding your strengths, service projects, leadership, scrap booking, advisor training, problem solving, and team building.

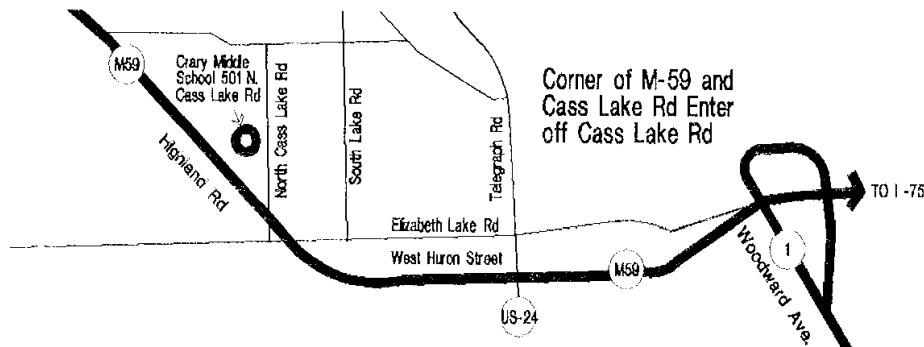
- ♥ There will be a Continental Breakfast and lots of...FUN!
- ♥ PIZZA for lunch and lots more FUN!
- ♥ Students are strongly recommended to pre-register.
- ♥ Pre-registration is *required* for Friday night.
- ♥ See Registration and Map on the next page.



We would like for all Junior Optimists and Octagon members to attend our Annual Conference this year. It's guaranteed to be an exciting time.

And for the first time we are making the cost FREE for everyone! We have asked the adult Optimist clubs for donations to make this effort possible.

If you would like additional information on the JOOI Conference or about starting a potential JOOI, Octagon, or Alpha club in your area please contact the Michigan District JOOI Advisor, Rocco Romano, at (248) 435-8173



## Optimists In Action

**Julie Howes**  
Editor

The Second Quarter of the 2007-2008 Optimist Year continues to be just as productive as the first. Below is a summary of some of the many activities within our District:

**Central Macomb Optimist Club** held a 'Dancing to the Decades' event. They raised \$1,500 which will be donated to the Macomb Charitable Foundation to help underprivileged children in and around their community. This club was also featured in the *Macomb Daily* for their oratorical contest participants who were teenagers incarcerated in the Juvenile Justice Center in Mount Clemens.

**Delta Chi Optimist Club of Detroit** chose to celebrate their first club birthday at the Children's Center in Detroit. The Valentine's Day themed celebration was titled "From our Heart to Yours!" Many children attended the event and enjoyed playing games, arts and crafts, jewelry making and decorating cookies.

**Optimist Club of Keego Harbor** participated in a mentoring program for eighth graders at a local middle school and for third/fourth graders at a local elementary school. This is done in partnership with the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth.

**Mason Optimist Club** held their annual Tri-Star Basketball event as well as a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at their A&W with the proceeds benefiting the Optimist Youth Sport Event this Spring.

**Mona Shores Optimist Club** has been busy bowling in the local 'Bowl for Kids Sake' tournament as well as raising money for the area American Red Cross chapter.

**Richmond Area Optimist Club** held a fundraiser at a local bowling alley to raise money for the Richmond Tutoring Center which provides free tutoring services to the Richmond Lee Elementary School.

**Traverse City Optimist Club** recently made grants to thirteen local youth oriented organizations. The grand total of the grants was \$6,500!!

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](mailto:JLHOWES217@aol.com)



## Michigan District Optimists— Get Ready for Some Capitol Learning!

**Jan Oord**

[joord@kresanet.org](mailto:joord@kresanet.org) or (269) 324-5975

Michigan District Leadership Development Chairperson

Lansing will be overflowing with Optimism on May 16-18, as our Third Quarter Michigan District Optimist Conference will be held at the Kellogg Center. This meeting is eagerly anticipated by many Optimists as we celebrate the talents of our Michigan youth competing in the Oratorical Contest. You will be inspired, motivated and possibly moved to tears as you hear the Regional winners deliver their presentation on "Why Me?

**Immediate Past Optimist International President Ronnie Dunn** will be joining us. She will share thoughts on Optimism with us and celebrate the Michigan District Distinguished status for the 2006-07 year by presenting Immediate Past Distinguished Governor Lou her ring.

In addition to these exciting events, we will have many learning opportunities for Michigan Optimist members. The general session will feature the business of the District and presentations from our District leaders. The break out sessions will be tailored to meet the needs of all Optimists. Following are a few of the sessions that are being planned: Dream Team Leadership, Personal Growth and Development Module (PGI), Quick Books, Identifying your Team's Strengths/Talents and Community Project Award (CPA). Hope to see you all in our State Capital for comradery, learning and Optimism!

**Why Not?** The District Essay contest winner will also be shared, having written an inspirational essay incorporating the theme of "Today's Choices Shape My Future". We are thrilled that our



## Make Plans for The Third Quarter District Meeting— **WE'RE GOING SPARTAN STYLE!**

**Nicole M. Ingersoll**

[ingers007@yahoo.com](mailto:ingers007@yahoo.com) or (269) 217-0513

Michigan District Conferences and Conventions Chairperson

We're traveling to the middle of the state this time to host our Third Quarter District Meeting. Home to our State Capitol and home to the Michigan State Spartans—GO GREEN, GO WHITE!! It's good ole Lansing, Michigan. We are staying at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center the weekend of May 16-18, 2008. We have tried to make the meeting centrally located for most Optimist members so we encourage everyone to attend. Bring your spouses, guests, and children. We have a little bit planned for each individual.

The weekend starts with Golfing, Registration, the Executive Board Meeting, and Hospitality Room on Friday night. However, the Hospitality Room for Third Quarter will be set up a bit different. We have tried to work with the hotel to offer the same beverage and food service as in year's past but due to contract guidelines and changing economic times we are unable to do so. We will be having a cash bar and light snacks. Area clubs have offered to give monetary support to help offset the cost and still make it a great evening for mix and mingle. But don't let that stop you from

attending, there are still great places to have a nice dinner within the area and then come join us afterwards.

On Saturday we have leadership and development sessions planned for members in the morning; greeting card making for the spouses, guests, and children; District Oratorical Contest Finals in the afternoon (an event that is a must-see by all); and a great dinner and evening of entertainment. Before you travel home on Sunday please join us for a Optimist Family Breakfast program.

All you have to do is fill out the registration form on the next page and submit it to District Secretary-Treasurer Marc Katz by May 7, 2008. We strongly encourage everyone to pre-register for the conference.

See you all in Lansing!



### **GOLFING ANYONE!**

Why not take a vacation day and join some of your fellow Optimist members in a round of golf on Friday, May 16th. This will start off the Third Quarter Meeting on a good swing!

You will be playing at Forest Acres Golf Course at Michigan State University. Tee times start at 8:04 AM. The cost is \$40 and it includes 18 holes of golf and cart. Currently 5 slots are open so act fast. If you are interested please contact **Harry Margo** by email at [ceioffice3268@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ceioffice3268@sbcglobal.net) NO LATER THAN May 12th.

### **THE EXPO IS BACK FOR THIRD QUARTER**

- Committee Chairs are invited to display what you have accomplished so far this year and what you hope to accomplish.
- Clubs are invited to share a successful project or fund raiser.
- The Expo is a great tool to get new members involved and to share your successes with other clubs and the district.

If you would like table space for displays or hand-outs, please contact:

Sheryl L. Mitchell, Director of Committees

[sherylwm@comcast.net](mailto:sherylwm@comcast.net) or (248) 709-2492



## Register Today For The Michigan Optimists 2007-2008 Third Quarter Conference Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center 55 S. Harrison Rd, East Lansing MI 48824



Friday, May 16, 2008  
Saturday, May 17, 2008  
Sunday, May 18, 2008

Executive Board Meeting/Hospitality Room  
General Business Meeting & Breakout Sessions;  
Dinner and Entertainment  
Michigan District Optimist Family Breakfast

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2007-2008 Office: \_\_\_\_\_

First Timer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Any Special Meal Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

*(If not specified, the standard menu selection will be served)*

If attending, Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Tentative Agenda for Saturday, May 17, 2008

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Registration
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	General Session
10:25 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
12:45 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Lunchtime Program
	- OI Foundation Raffle and Update
	- District Essay Contest Winner

2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.



### Make Your Hotel Reservations Today!!

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

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center  
55 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1022  
(800) 875-5090

**Make Reservations by April 15th**

**Room Rate: \$89.00 (plus state and local taxes)**

Please Check Which Activities You will Attend:

**Early Registration:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Must be faxed or postmarked before May 7, 2008.  
Registration includes coffee, lunch and meeting room charges.

**Late Registration:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Faxed or postmarked after May 8, 2008.  
Lunch **NOT** guaranteed.

**Spouse's and Guest's Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Get your creative ideas flowing as we learn how to make greeting cards for all occasions. Meet in hotel lobby at 9:00 a.m. Join us for lunch with the rest of the Optimist family.

**Children's Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
You may either participate in greeting card making or join us for a Spartan Adventure as we take an educational journey around MSU's campus. Lunch INCLUDED.

**Past Governors' Breakfast:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free = \_\_\_\_\_  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Assistant Governors' and Lieutenant Governors' Breakfast:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free = \_\_\_\_\_  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**First Timer's and Spouse's Continental Breakfast (8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.)** \_\_\_\_\_ @ Free = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Evening Dinner:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Dress for the evening is business casual)*  
6:00 p.m. Mix and Mingle  
6:30 p.m. Dinner and Entertainment

**Michigan District Optimists Family Breakfast:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



Michigan District  
Optimist International

**Next OptiViews Deadline**  
**June 1, 2008**

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

**Websites**

Michigan District  
[www.michiganoptimists.org](http://www.michiganoptimists.org)

Optimist International  
[www.optimist.org](http://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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**Optimist International Mission Statement:**

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