

The Southern Exposure



INDIANA SOUTH DISTRICT – OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Volume 13, Issue 3

April 2008

2007-2008

"I Believe in YOU"

Jerry Schue, Governor

Gary Burk, Secretary-Treasurer

Rich Slayton, Immediate Past Governor

Steve Arisman, Past Governor

Tony Trimble, Governor Elect

Lt. Governors

Zone 1: **Cheryl Curry**

Zone 2: **Hank Herpel**

Zone 3: **Jerry Martin**

Zone 4/5: **Mark Wilson**

Zone 6: **Doris Stone**

Zone 7: **Kent Reyling**

Zone 8: **Betty Strickland**

Zone 9: **Don Riggle**

Club Presidents

Presidents of all Clubs in the District serve as members of the District Board of Directors.

Attention:

Committee Chairs & Lt. Governors

The deadline for submitting articles for the next District Bulletin is **August 1, 2008**. Send your articles to p_grant@fastmail.fm if you have e-mail. If you prefer, send it snail-mail: 770 N CR 625 E, Avon, IN 46123.

DON'T FORGET!

From the Governor:

Optimists of the Indiana South District!

Editor: Either Governor Jerry was so busy being Governor; building clubs, encouraging clubs and members, etc. to not send me anything to publish here. OR your Editor lost Governor Jerry's contribution. Either way, you don't have anything to read from Governor Jerry.

INSTEAD, come to Bloomington on April 25-26th for the 3rd Quarter District Conference. Also, International President Theo Golding will be making his official visit.

I am positive that Governor Jerry will have lots to say there.

"I Believe in YOU!"

Jerry Schue, Governor

Indiana South District

schueb@psci.net

812-686-0050

RESPECT FOR LAW

The third tenant in our purposes of the Optimist Club is “To inspire respect for law”. Each local club can accomplish this 3rd tenant by conducting one of two programs that have been designed as respect for law programs.

First, with the help of our Indiana State Police we can sponsor kids to Respect for Law Camp for Youths. This is a co-ed camp for children entering into the 5 and 6 grades. The cost for each camper is a \$95.00 fee. We recommend that you contact your schools so they can pass out the applications to their students. They can help identify those that may need assistance. Clubs can sponsor as many as their budget will afford. It is recommended that each child pay a portion of the cost so they will have some ownership in the camp. The camps are held at various colleges in our district. This year the dates are as follows:

June 5-7 at University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN

June 26-28 at Hanover College, Hanover, IN

July 12-14 at Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN

July 17-19 at University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

The applications can be secured on line from www.in.gov/isp/ which is the Indiana State Police home page. Click on Youth Camps on the left side of this site which will call up Youth Camps and at the bottom of that page is the 2008 Camp Application which you can click on to get a copy. The application is self explanatory. Each Optimist Club should collect and send in the applications as directed. They should be sent in as soon as possible to allow time for Indiana State Police to send the paperwork back to the campers. Also this needs to get to the teachers before school is out so they can pass them out to the students entering the 5 and 6 grades.

You will find that the children, parents, and teachers will all agree that these camps make a difference in their lives. They learn respect for our law enforcement officers as well as others. Each child comes away with a better understanding of what the officers do to protect them and they have fun at the same time. It does make a difference in their lives.

The second area where the local club can make a difference is to Honor your local law enforcement officers. Invite them to your meetings or have a special program for them and or a dinner. Honor them with Certificates of Appreciation or Plaques. You also need to submit articles to the local media of these events that are sponsored by your club.

For more Information Contact Ed Rinehart, Respect for Law Chair at 812-544-2253 or Email: edrinehart@psci.net.

Bear Project Update

There was a small article in the Evansville Courier yesterday.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2008/apr/06/children-receive-teddy-bearblessings/>

Audrey Fischer
audrey.fischer@kimball.com

From: Jay A Baker [mailto:jay.baker@germanamericanbank.com]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 8:47 AM
Subject: Bear Project

Good morning all! I just want to say thank you to each and every one of you for your support throughout our Operation Voices and Love project. My inbox has been flooded this morning with thank you's from the families that we reached out to. Below you will find a couple of emails that I received....one from a family member and another from Rowana Umbarger (the Adjutant General's wife). I know I can't share all of them YET, but I wanted you to see what has been said...I must truly tell you that this is what being an Optimist is all about!! Puff out your chest and walk around proud everyday as we brought to fruition a project of enormous size and positively impacted the lives of several hundred children! Oh by the way, we aren't done yet - more ideas! THANK YOU ALL!!!

Part of an email received from a family member....

I wanted to send a sincere Thank You to all the Optimists and anyone else who helped make Saturday a huge success. It was overwhelming what you all did for these families. Wow! My son is serving with the 151st. My daughter and I attended. It was absolutely fabulous and sent a powerful message to the families--someone cares! Everywhere you looked the children were smiling and having fun and it gave the adults a time to mingle with each other. It was perfect timing since our soldiers had just recently arrived in Iraq I don't know how many times I heard "Have you heard from your husband, son, daughter?" And to get the opportunity to record a message for our soldier was awesome. (I think the guy and gal helping us cried along with us) I will treasure the bear and the message inside not only until my son comes home but forever.

When our soldiers deployed most of us did not know each other. Since that time we have become a tight knit family. Saturday you all became a part of that family.

Thank you is not enough! God Bless you all!

Secondly, the email received from Major General R. Martin Umbarger's wife - Rowana Umbarger:

Wow - what an incredible day it was yesterday. Marty & I don't even know where to begin to thank you and your group for making this happen. We feel so honored to be a part of the National Guard and the soldiers and airmen who VOLUNTEER to serve our Country. But we are equally honored to know there are organizations and individuals such as you and the Optimists who recognize and appreciate the sacrifices that are being made by our Guard members and their families. I am so glad Susan called to invite us to this event and that we were able

to attend. It is a day we won't soon forget.

The look on the faces of the family members when they heard the voice of their soldier - especially the little ones - was priceless. As I was walking out of the banquet room there was a young lady standing there holding her bear - crying. It may have been a girlfriend, wife - I'm not sure - but she was obviously moved.

Another special touch was the videotape by the families to the soldiers. I admire the people in the room doing this - I am sure they were moved. There will be many tears shed in Iraq when the soldiers see their families on these tapes. For the Viet Nam veteran doing the videotaping - we only wish that he had this same support. We learned so much from the way we treated those that served during that era - we have learned to never make those same mistakes. It's about supporting the warrior - period.

The French Lick Resort did an outstanding job with the food, room, etc. What an incredible partner in this event!

Susan emailed me today and said that the Optimists gave gas cards to the families to pay for gas. You thought of everything. I know the families were just happy to be there to spend time with other families - to be recognized - to hear the voice of their loved one - and didn't expect you to pay for their gas. I'm sure they were quite surprised by that.

To the Optimists involved in making this suggestion by Susan Reichard a reality - thank you just doesn't seem adequate. We are eternally grateful for the support shown to our soldiers and their families. Please convey our appreciation to all involved. These things renew our faith in humanity. There are more good things - and people - than bad - the bad just gets more press.

Bless each and every one of you - Ro Umbarger

There is a DVD that will be produced from the event - special thanks to fellow Optimist Steve Arisman and his wife Beth for their work with the video piece of the event - obviously a major impact!!! Once the DVD is completed we will hold a "movie night" where we will share it!!! Thanks again for everyone's help!!!

Have a great day!!!
Jay

DECEASED MEMBERS?

The Indiana South District Convention will be here before we know, and I would like to remind officers of the clubs in the District to send me the information regarding members who have died since the last Convention. The District will honor the members who have passed with a Memorial Service on Sunday morning, the last day of the Convention. It would be a shame to not recognize a member, or members, because their name was not submitted. There have only been two deaths reports as of this newsletter, and they are both from my club in Evansville. Please send DECEASED MEMBER'S NAME, CLUB NAME, and DATE OF DEATH of the deceased member to:

Gary Burk, Indiana South District Secretary-Treasurer, gaburk05@att.net, or mail to 9629 Cayes Drive, Evansville, IN 47725-6739. Thank you!

Junior high school students in Chicago were studying the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of the lesson, the students were asked to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World.

Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt 's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal in India
3. The Grand Canyon in Arizona
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch...
2. to taste...
3. to see...
4. to hear...
- (She hesitated a little, and then added...)
5. to feel...
6. to laugh...
7. and to love.

The room was so quiet; you could have heard a pin drop.

May this story serve as a gentle reminder to all of us that the things we overlook as simple and ordinary are often the most wonderful - and we don't have to travel anywhere special to experience them.

Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI)

Your passport to personal development, PGI enables you to be recognized and appreciated for personal and professional accomplishments. In addition to becoming more involved in Optimist activities and increasing your knowledge about Optimist International, you will strengthen your writing and oration skills as you advance through the ten levels in the passport. The name is a perfect descriptor of the program:

Personal: You make personal decisions to fit this program into your life. You decide whether to participate. You decide how quickly you want to advance through the program. You choose the projects and meetings to attend.

Growth: You will grow in confidence in your presentation abilities. You will grow in knowledge of your organization. Your club and organization will grow in membership as a result of your participation.

Involvement: You joined your club to be involved, and involved you will be at all levels of the organization as you progress through the program. You will be involved in service activities, meetings, and conference...all at your own pace.

Don't Delay! Take a look at the PGI Passport and take pride in how much you have

A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat. He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree reading a book; the other was typing away on his laptop. The lion quickly pounced the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.

3rd Quarter District Conference Registration Updated Information

If you picked up a registration form at the 2nd Quarter Conference, please note that it has been revised and is available on the District website: Indiana South District News Page. The revision was needed because of Optimist International President Theo's visit. Please be sure to register for the OI President's banquet Saturday evening of the conference. Registrations are due by April 18th, but I would appreciate receiving it as early as possible. There may not be any available meal tickets for sale on-site, so please plan ahead. See you in Bloomington!

Pat France, Arrangements Chair

The Optimist International Foundation is the sole means of support of most of our Youth Projects:

Oratorical Contests
Essay Contests
JOOI Clubs (and others)

The funds come from UNRESTRICTED GIFTS to the foundation.

There are many other types of gifts received that may fall in the category of RESTRICTED. These accounts do help abundantly as long as they are not DEDICATED! All are welcome and we do receive interest on these gifts.

Property
Wills
Pass through accounts
Insurance
Many others

Please consider these methods of contribution:

Dime-a day category - \$36.50 per year. This donation is the least amount required to be able to vote for OIF Board Members. This amount also is close to just one meal out for two per year.

Century Club - \$100

President's Club - \$250

Christian D. Larson Partner - \$1000

William Henry Harrison Club - \$10,000 plus \$1000 each following year

REMEMBER - All these financial efforts are tax deductible - IRS 501(c)3. Also, the staff of OIF keeps a very confidential account of your giving from year one!

A hypothesis - If each member would join the Dime-a-day for one year!

50 member club - \$1825

District of 2500 members - \$91,250

All US Optimists - \$2,737,000

We have yet to receive one million dollars in a given year in unrestricted funds.

Just think about the good we could do for our kids through our foundation. THEY ARE OUR ONLY HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE.

Hey! Y'all! We do pretty good, but we all could do better.

Many thanks,

Bill Scott -Pres-elect, Optimist International Foundation

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT CONFERENCES FOR 2007-2008

3rd Quarter District Conference

April 25-26, 2008

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center

302 South College Avenue

Bloomington, IN 47403

Phone (812) 336-3681

International President's Theo Golding's Visit

April 26, 2008

Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center

Indiana South District Convention

August 7-10, 2008

Holiday Inn Terre Haute

330 U.S. 41 South

Terre Haute, IN 47802

Phone (812) 232-6081

Camp CareFree Indiana (formerly Camp Quality Indiana) website:

www.campcarefreeindiana.org <<http://www.campcarefreeindiana.org/>>

Don't Google Internet Searches

A new deal with Internet searches as a fundraiser for OI:

When searching the Internet, don't Google, use this address for your search engine www.goodsearch.com and enter optimist as your charity before searching and select Optimist International Foundation.

Note from editor: I've tried it and the searches work really well.

RECHARGE ---- RENEW ---- REFRESH

All Optimists are invited to join us on Saturday, June 21, at the MCL Restaurant in Bloomington for a one day fun, educational and interactive workshop. This training will be valuable as an Optimist, in your business and your personal life. It will be beneficial if you are currently an officer of our district, of your club, your zone, or are inspired to someday be a leader in your club, zone or district.

Together with other Optimist members just like you.... discover how to:

- Achieve your Optimist goals
- Identify the steps needed for success
- How to measure your progress
- Learn about resources available to all of us
- Promote membership growth strategies for your club
- How to build a "team" within your club
- Become a more effective leader
- Recharge – Refresh – Renew your outlook on Optimism!

Date to remember

The Breakfast Optimist Club of Indianapolis will be celebrating their 50th year Sunday September 28th. Place the date on your calendar.

Elbert "Brad" Bradshaw

Get Your Ducks in Order (Childhood Cancer)

Optimist International will be sponsoring a CCC Duck Race at the 2008 International Convention with proceeds benefiting the Research Fund in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Johns Hopkins or the Canadian Childhood Cancer Campaign.

The good news is that everyone can participate, even if they will not be attending Convention! Members can purchase as many ducks as they like. Payment must be sent with the order form via credit card, money order or check. Please make checks payable to "OIF-CCC."

Get your entry forms from Bethe or Steve Arisman, Childhood Cancer Co-Chairs. Forms can be mailed or faxed to Optimist International or the Canadian Service Centre. Order forms must be submitted by June 16 or ducks must be purchased at the Convention.

The first duck to cross the finish line wins its owner the grand prize of \$100 US. The second-place finisher receives \$50 US and the third duck across the line gets \$25 US. If the owner of one of the winning ducks is not present, a check will be mailed to them after Convention.

If you have any questions, please contact your District CCC Chair (Bethe and Steve Arisman, Co-Chairs) or the Programs Department at (800) 500-8130 or via e-mail at ccc@optimist.org. Order your duck(s) today to ensure your District has its ducks in a row at the 2008 International Convention!

Optimist Television PSAs Distributed

A series of television public service announcements (PSAs) promoting the work of Optimist Clubs in "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" has been distributed to more than 1,100 TV and cable stations throughout North America. Three 30-second and two 15-second messages show Optimists interacting with children while the narration explains what Optimist Clubs do.

To find out which stations in your area have received the PSAs, click on the appropriate link.

To view the distribution list in .pdf format, click

http://www.optimist.org/Publications/PSA_Distribution_List.pdf.

To view the distribution list in .xls format, click

http://www.optimist.org/Publications/PSA_Distribution_List.xls.

Distribution to Canada and Jamaica will be done as soon as the necessary government approval is received. Optimist Clubs that want to add local contact information to a PSA in their area can do so for \$85 through the company handling the distribution. To find out more or to order a customized PSA go to www.tvaccessreports.com/optimistorder.

ALERT!!

Do have your reservation in for the **2008 Optimist International Convention in Grapevine Texas for July 2nd - 3rd - 4th and 5th of 2008??** If not, you better do it now. This will be a great event. We want to meet you there for a big time both for the convention activities as well as the many side activities that are available. Attached is a list of some of the tours that you may enjoy during your visit in the Dallas - Ft. Worth area. Time is getting closer now so get your plans reserved. If you need registrations forms of any kind, please contact myself: **Gerald E. Lawrence (812-663-9639), g.lawrenc@comcast.net or see me at our District Conference in Bloomington or contact Sharon Parton at: Optimist International in St. Louis.**



Tour Registration Form

Grapevine "Taste of the Grape" and Vetro Glass:

Tuesday July 1, 1-4:30pm

Wednesday July 2, 1-4:30pm

Sunday July 6, 11:30am-3:00pm

Did you know that Grapevine Texas has seven wineries with tasting rooms and is becoming a nationally known wine region? Guests will begin the wine tasting at the historic Cross Timber Winery. This tasting room is located in the historic Brock Farm which was owned by Dr. Dorris, Grapevine's beloved pioneer physician after the Civil War.

From Cross Timbers we will travel a short distance to La Buena Vida Vineyards winery tasting room, located in Grapevine's Historic District. Located in an old church building, La Buena Vida invites visitors to the tasting room to enjoy their fountains, English flower and herb gardens and a small demonstration vineyard. After enjoying the wine tasting guests will travel down Main Street to Vetro Glass located at the Train Station.

Historic Grapevine is home to a group of artists who practice an innovative art form "C glass blowing. Vetro Contemporary Glassblowing studio will have a demonstration of artists at work in this fascinating art form. Guests will be talked through the process as well as watching an artist create a piece. After the session guests will have a chance to purchase artwork or order custom pieces if they so choose. Afterwards we will have time to shop on historic Main Street.

Cost: \$44

Dallas City Tour and Sixth Floor Museum:

Tuesday July 1, 1-4:30pm

Wednesday July 2, 1-4:30pm

Sunday July 6, 11:30am-3:00pm

Where were you when President John F. Kennedy was shot? Return to that exact moment and examine the historical events at the actual locations where the "Crime of the Century" was committed. This presentation takes the form of an investigation focusing on President Kennedy, alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby, all those lives tragically converged in Dallas and forever changed the course of history. After the Audio Tour of the Sixth Floor guests will enjoy a tour of the City of Dallas including the Arts District, Fountain Place and Fair Park.

Cost: \$40.50

Fort Worth Historic Stockyards:

Tuesday July 1, 10am-2pm

Wednesday July 2, 10am-2pm

Sunday July 6, 11:30am-3:00pm

We are off to explore the rough and wild cowboy heritage of Dallas' sister city, Fort Worth. Learn about the infamous bandits and visits Hell's Half Acre and the Fort Worth Stockyards. The cattle, cattlemen and cattle rustlers passing through contributed to the Stockyard's atmosphere, some of which remains today. We will tour the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame which honors Texan men and women who have excelled in the sports of rodeo and cutting. Guests will enjoy The Fort Worth Herd Cattle Drive held daily beginning at 11:30am. Then it's on to Sundance Square, named after the Sundance Kid the 20-block district has an incredible variety of things to do and see "C stores and boutiques, museums and galleries, coffee shops, and live theatres.

Cost: \$30.50

A Night at Billy Bob's Texas:

Tuesday July 1, 6:30pm-10:30pm

Named the country music club of the year an amazing nine times, The World's Largest Honky Tonk, with 127,000 square feet of space, which is nearly 3 acres inside and 20 acres of parking for entertainment and events, Billy Bob's has 32 max individual bar stations, country music's biggest stars, Live Pro Bull Riding, photo bull, and Texas size dance floor for everyone to enjoy. Guests will enjoy a private room at Billy Bob's for dinner, and preferred seating for live entertainment.

Cost: \$98.50

Tour Confirmation: (An e-mail confirmation will be sent to all guests.)

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Grapevine "Taste of the Grape"

Number of attendees: _____ at \$44 per person

Tuesday July 1, 1-4:30pm

Wednesday July 2, 1-4:30pm

Sunday July 6, 11:30am-3:00pm

Dallas City Tour and Sixth Floor Museum

Number of attendees: _____ at \$40.50 per person

Tuesday July 1, 1-4:30pm

Wednesday July 2, 1-4:30pm

Sunday July 6, 11:30am-3:00pm

Fort Worth Historic Stockyards

Number of attendees: _____ at \$30.50 per person

Tuesday July 1, 10:00am-2:00pm

Wednesday July 2, 10:00am-2:00pm

Sunday July 6, 11:30am-3:00pm

A Night at Billy Bob's Texas

Number of attendees: _____ at \$98.50 per person

Tuesday July 1, 6:30pm-10:30pm

Total Amount Paid: _____

Outstanding Productions accepts personal checks, company checks, and credit card payments.

Please remit all payments to or please fax credit card authorization form attention Patty Phelps:

Outstanding Productions, Inc.
1050 Metromedia Place
Dallas, TX 75247
Phone: 817.778.3210
Fax: 817.778.3348

**OP reserves the right to cancel all tours, should a minimum number of guests not sign up.*

Looking forward to seeing you at our April Conference in Bloomington and in Grapevine Texas.

Gerald Lawrence, D.I.C.A.

A message from the Board regarding Proposed Bylaws Amendments

TO: District Governors/International Vice Presidents/Lt. Governors/Club Leaders

FROM: International Board of Directors

RE: Proposed Bylaws Amendments

As you know, the Board is proposing several amendments to the International Bylaws for consideration by the delegates at the International Convention in July. We feel it is important that you understand the rationale behind our proposals.

Several of the amendments are being proposed to help alleviate a serious budget deficit the organization is facing. When the Finance & Audit Committee began its preparation of the 2008-2009 budget earlier this year there was a \$400,000 budget deficit. The committee and staff made numerous administrative, program and personnel cuts to that initial budget but a sizeable deficit still remained. It is important to note that two main reasons exist for this financial crunch: 1) a continued decline in the number of dues-paying members and Clubs and, 2) new U.S. laws governing defined-benefit pension plans that require them to be fully funded within seven years. Unfortunately, during the 1980s and 1990s the pension plan was seriously under funded and the organization's liability is \$1.4 million. After exhausting all prudent budget reductions we approved taking to the delegates two proposals that would help balance the budget for 2008-09.

District Dues Allocation

Motion adopted:

That the Board of Directors ask the delegates at the International Convention in Grapevine, Texas to forego Article VIII, Section 5B. Dues Amount and Date, for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

This proposal asks that Districts voluntarily give up the District dues allocation for the 2008-09 year only. This would add approximately \$70,000 to the budget. Defeat of this item will require us to make additional program and personnel cuts.

4% Rule

Motion adopted:

That the Board of Directors ask the delegates at the International Convention in Grapevine, Texas to suspend Article VIII, Section 6. Budget (the 4% rule) for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Board of Directors shall adopt a budget of estimated revenue and expenses for the following fiscal year for the several activities of Optimist International. The budget as adopted shall provide for an excess of revenue (whether from dues or surplus funds) over expenses of at least four (4%) percent of the member based budgeted revenues for that fiscal year unless this reserve would result in a reserve balance greater than twenty-five (25%) percent of the budgeted Membership revenue. In such a case, the reserve shall be equal to the amount necessary to bring the reserves to twenty-five (25%) of the membership revenue.

The 4% rule was originally established to set aside funds for a "rainy day" emergency. By suspending the 4% rule for 2008-09, an additional \$170,000 will be available to help balance the budget. If the delegates do not waive this rule, additional cuts of \$170,000 will have to be made.

Several other Bylaws amendments are being proposed that have created some confusion on the part of some members. Let us try to clarify why we are proposing them.

Dues Billing for Special Clubs/College Clubs

Motion adopted as amended:

That the Board of Directors directs the Governance Committee to bring to the delegates an amendment to the Bylaws as follows:

Clubs may select a yearly dues billing at the beginning of each quarter based on their Membership as of the close of the previous quarter. Any Members added in the first half of the billing cycle shall pay the full dues amount and any Members added in the second half shall pay one-half the dues. All processing fees for new Members in single billing clubs will be waived.

The Audit & Finance Committee reviewed the current dues billing cycle to provide for flexibility for Clubs that have unique operational structures, seasonal opportunities, or to ease administrative/accounting activities. An increasing number of Clubs (sports clubs, college clubs, single project/focus clubs) are active and operate only during a limited time frame each year. These Clubs would benefit by the ability to pay dues once a year. Under our proposal, Clubs would be free to select their billing cycle (i.e., annually or quarterly). No Club would be forced to pay only once a year. We saw this as a benefit to some Clubs. It is a revenue neutral proposal.

Please note that we are withdrawing a proposal to change the amount of Life Membership Dues and instead referring it to the Audit & Finance Committee for further study.

We also made some decisions this year that, while not needing the approval of the delegates, apparently require some explanation. For instance, we approved raising the reimbursable mileage rate to volunteers who travel on Optimist International business to 24 cents per mile. This slight increase from 20 cents per mile will help our volunteers cope with the rising gas prices and brings it in line with the per kilometer reimbursement which remains at 20 cents per kilometer since a kilometer is 6/10 of a mile.

Registration fees for the 2009 International Convention in Orlando were raised. This was done to balance the convention budget. The costs we must pay to the hotels and various vendors continue to rise each year. We looked at possible expense cuts but could not make any significant reduction in expenses without having a major negative effect on the product we present for our members. The convention has run a deficit for the past several years while registration fees have remained the same. We felt that we must be fiscally prudent and require the convention to pay for itself.

The organization is facing some serious issues and we consider them very seriously. Our goal is to find a way for the organization to continue to function as it always has despite rising costs and declining membership. We don't want to make cuts in our programs or the services we provide to our Clubs. It's a tough job, but every decision we make comes after much discussion, many disagreements and quite a bit of soul-searching. We welcome comments from all members on the decisions we have made. But ultimately, the Club delegates at the International Convention in Grapevine will make many of these decisions. We will, of course, abide by those decisions and make sure the organization continues to operate as efficiently as possible.

2007-08 Optimist International Board of Directors

Ronnie Dunn, Chair of the Board

Theo Golding, President

Don Sievers, President-Elect

Mark Shriver, Member

Guy Templin, Member

Dee Rushforth, Member

Carrollyn Cox, Member

Claire Labrèche, Member

Herb Strather, Member

How to grow a vine

A wine grower named Giorgio called for his two sons, Anton and Vitto, and told them he would have to test each of them in order to decide who was best qualified to take charge of the property when he retired. The two young men were very different: Anton was daring and mischievous, always smiling and friendly, while his brother was taciturn and hard-working, but entirely devoid of emotion.

The father gave them each a vine seedling and said: "I want you to choose the place that you think has the best conditions for your vine to grow. The one who harvests the best grapes a few years from now will take control of the property."

Anton was in no hurry to get started. "I have a lot of time before I have to start looking around. A vine grows slowly, and only yields grapes after four years anyway."

Vitto knew that too, but he decided to find the best place to plant his vine right away. He planted his seedling on a parcel of land facing south, on top of a rocky hill. Anton made fun of him, saying: "You idiot, you chose the worst possible location! A hilltop facing south make the leaves shrivel and burn, and soil full of rocks won't allow the roots to grow. You won't get any grapes from that vine at all!"

Four years later the father once again summoned his two sons so he could taste their fruit. Anton's basket was filled with beautiful, juicy grapes, while Vitto's basket held only a few small grapes. Giorgio picked two grapes from each basket and tasted them in silence. The ones from Anton's basket were filled with seeds and their size was due to all the water they contained. "Tasteless," his father said. But when Giorgio tasted Vitto's grapes his face lit up with pleasure. "These grapes are small but they're bursting with flavor," he exclaimed. "Their juice will produce excellent wine. This is very good work. How did you do it, my son?" "I followed a simple principle," Vitto replied. "Like people, vines only yield good fruit when challenged with adversity."

You may sometimes wonder why you have to put up with so many obstacles in life. But now you can understand that problems - the things that make you work harder - are really there to teach you. They are the events that form your character and make you the person you are today. So be prepared to confront whatever Destiny places on your path, and use it to become stronger!

"You learn more from a good enemy than from a good friend!"

WORLD'S FUNNIEST MAGIC ACT TO HEAD FOR CONVENTION

This year's Evening of Entertainment headliner is magician Mac King. In the April 2008 issue of Magic Magazine, King was rated the No. 1 funniest act in magic today, voted on by his peers in the magic community. Thirty-one magicians were nominated by those in the magic/entertainment industry. Then those 31 nominees voted among themselves to determine the top 10. King outranked familiar acts such as Penn & Teller and Harry Anderson for the top spot!

This is just one more reason why Members should start planning to attend the Convention July 2-5 in Grapevine, Texas. Optimists will get all that Convention has to offer, plus an in-demand magic/comedy act to boot!

The Evening of Entertainment is included with all Convention registrations. Register by April 15.

SOFTWARE FOR CLUB SECRETARY/TREASURERS HAS BEEN UPDATED

OptiClub ~ Software for Club Secretary/Treasurers that has the endorsement of the Optimist International Board of Directors has been updated. Version 4.02 was released April 1, 2008.

OptiClub automates all the duties outlined for Secretary/Treasurers, making the Club Secretary/Treasurer's job easier.

It is available through Shumsky (www.optimiststuff.com) downloadable or on CD. Item number 786. There is a 45-day free trial period.

The software was developed and is maintained by Don Keating, a longtime District and Club Secretary/Treasurer who is also a software developer. Don can be reached at (803) 781-0320 or OptiClub@dbscopy.com.



Google announced a new technology called TiSP that would allow it to provide FREE in-home wireless broadband service. TiSP stood for "Toilet Internet Service Provider." Users would connect to the internet via their bathroom's plumbing system. Installation involved dropping a weighted fiber-optic cable down the toilet and then activating the "patented GFlush™ system" which would send the cable "surfing through the plumbing system to one of the thousands of TiSP Access Nodes." Google promised that it would provide a higher-performance version of the service for businesses which would include "24-hour, on-site technical support in the event of backup problems, brownouts and data wipes."

But, the best news article I heard today was about the required analog to digital watch conversion. You can get a coupon from the government to cover the first \$40 of costs to convert your analog watch to digital. (But then what happens to Mickey's hands???)

TIPS ON PUMPING GAS

I don't know what you guys are paying for gasoline.... but here in California we are also paying higher, up to \$3.50 per gallon. But my line of work is in petroleum for about 31 years now, so here are some tricks to get more of your money's worth for every gallon..

Here at the Kinder Morgan Pipeline where I work in San Jose, CA we deliver about 4 million gallons in a 24-hour period thru the pipeline. One day is diesel the next day is jet fuel, and gasoline, regular and premium grades. We have 34-storage tanks here with a total capacity of 16,800,000 gallons.

Only buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gasoline expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening...your gallon is not exactly a gallon. In the petroleum business, the specific gravity and the temperature of the gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, ethanol and other petroleum products plays an important role.

A 1-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for this business. But the service stations do not have temperature compensation at the pumps.

When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode. If you look you will see that the trigger has three (3)stages: low, middle, and high. In slow mode you should be pumping on low speed, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some other liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL or HALF EMPTY. The reason for this is, the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine. Gasoline storage tanks have an internal floating roof. This roof serves as zero clearance between the gas and the atmosphere, so it minimizes the evaporation. Unlike service stations, here where I work, every truck that we load is temperature compensated so that every gallon is actually the exact amount.

Another reminder, if there is a gasoline truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up--most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom. Hope this will help you get the most value for your money.

DO SHARE THESE TIPS WITH OTHERS!



■ 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.*

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

-Optimist Mission Statement



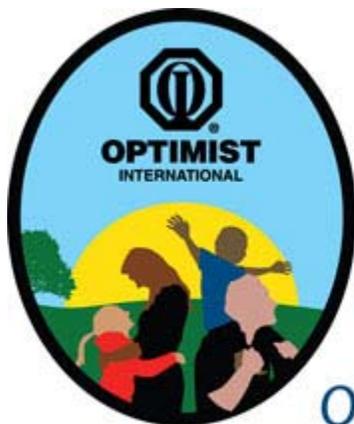
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Club Presidents: Please make copies of this Bulletin and distribute to the members of your club.



Optimists Bring Out the Best in Children

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