

The Southern Exposure



INDIANA SOUTH DISTRICT - OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Volume 19, Issue 1

October 2013

2013-2014

"Come Soar With Me...for the Kids"

Frank Fowler, Governor

Pat France, Immediate Past
Governor

Chuck Curry, Past Governor

Mike Underwood, Governor Elect

Jim Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer

Lt. Governors

Zone 1: Rick Posson

Zone 2: Dave Bean

Zone 3: Dawn Wickham

Zone 4: Mark Wilson

Zone 5: Tricia Vaal

Zone 6: Chris Padgett

Zone 7: Jessica Mehringer

Zone 8: Mark Hackert

Attention:

Committee Chairs & Lt Governors

The deadline for submitting articles for the next District Bulletin is

December 29, 2013. Send

your articles to

p_grant@fastmail.fm if you have e-

mail. If you prefer, send it snail-

mail: 770 N County Road 625 E,
Avon, IN 46123.

DON'T FORGET!

A message from Frank, your 2013-2014 Indiana South District Governor



Dear Fellow Optimists,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to share a few thoughts with you. I am Frank Fowler, a member of the Santa Claus Optimist club, and I am Governor of the Indiana South District for the 2013-2014 Optimist year. I joined the Optimist organization in July of 2004. My Governorship will come on my 10 year anniversary with our wonderful club. Never have I felt such strong bonds with people as when we're working for or with the kids.

We just completed a Tri-Star soccer competition where we served 77 kids. It was a great day. I hope you are able to interact with the kids the way we did and see the enthusiasm these kids bring to everything they do. They need our encouragement and support and giving that is what makes everyone in the Optimist organization winners

in everything we do.

I would like to encourage you to attend our conferences. You should already have received a registration form for the first conference in Indianapolis on October 18th and 19th. These conferences are not just social occasions. You have the opportunity to network with experts on how to improve your member recruitment and receive the latest materials and videos for this purpose. You can see fundraising projects that other clubs have done and again discuss them with the people who have done them and discuss how to make them your own. Learn about the scholarship contest that OI sponsors and what support the district can give your club to start these projects.

How many of you have asked the question “Why are we paying dues to Optimist International instead of giving it to our kids?” If you’re not participating in the scholarship contests or learning how to improve your clubs performance for the kids in your community you have a good question. You have an 11 million dollar liability insurance policy but you’re missing out on much more.

I want to leave you with some words from International President Ron Huxley. I’m paraphrasing as I don’t have his speech from the convention. Ron said that each club is an individual light in the darkness. Together we can be a beacon of hope to the children of the world. An individual light can be easily extinguished. Join with us. Learn to be everything you can be and everything the kids need.

Frank Fowler, Governor

Indiana South District Meetings

1st Quarter: District Conference.....October 18-19, 2013 Indianapolis
2nd Quarter: District Conference.....January 17-18, 2014 Edinburgh Mall
3rd Quarter: District Conference.....April 11-12, 2014 Bloomington Marriot
4th Quarter: District Convention.....August 8-9-10, 2014 Terre Haute

Past Governors' Breakfast

The PGA breakfast at the Conference in **Indianapolis** will be on Saturday, October 19th at 7:00 AM. Spouses/significant others are invited to attend the Breakfast as in the past.

Dues for the 2013-2014 year are now due. Please bring your check or cash to the breakfast or send your check to Paul Grant, 770 N County Road 625 E, Avon, IN 46123. Make checks out to “INDS Dist Opt PGA”. Looking forward to seeing you in **Indianapolis**.

Pat France, IPG

Bill Scott’s birthday is October 9th. Ask him if Moses was a really nice guy!

Indiana South Set Ablaze and ready to Soar

Without further ado this is my final message as your Immediate Past Governor to bring you up-to-date about Indiana South and the 2012-2013 Hearts on Fire year. I wanted to let the numbers settle a little at OI before I sent this message – allowing for processing of information by OI. I believe we have final numbers for Indiana South now (or at least close).

Okay, anyway – enough delay: Indiana South Optimist Members = WE DID IT!! Indiana South is a Distinguished District for 2012-2013!

Also, congratulations to our own Jerry Schue, OI VP for Mid-America Region – ending the year as number one in OI and 3 Districts from our Region finishing in the top 10 in membership growth. Oh, by the way – INDIANA SOUTH FINISHED 7TH – THAT'S *INTERNATIONALLY* FOLKS!!

Everyone hung in there with their support and we ended up in the plus for net membership. What a fantastic ending to such a roller coaster year. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect such a great ending! A new club on September 30th helped us end with a net plus 65.

Depending on clubs turning in their all their paperwork we could have as many as:
5 Distinguished Clubs & 12 Honor Clubs

(Be sure to keep an eye out for information about our Awards Banquet at the 2nd Quarter District Conference – more info to follow)

The District welcomed 3 new clubs to our family and one JOOI club. By the way – let's all welcome the newest club to our District organized Monday, September 30th = WELCOME DALE OPTIMIST CLUB.

None of this would have happened without the support, passion, and hard work from all of you. Thank you from Rick and me for such a wonderful experience! I know the word is sometimes overused, but all I can think of to describe the Indiana South family is: AWESOME!!!

So, here I leave you (as Governor) – heart is still on fire and hoping you will SOAR with Frank as I support him in his 2013-2014 year. Let's fly!

Forever Optimistic – and signing out as:



"Are you fired up?"

Pat

Pat France "HEARTS ON FIRE in Indiana South"

2012-2013 Governor

Indiana South District Optimist International



WOW, organizational meeting for the brand new *Optimist Club of Dale, Indiana* on Sept. 30th. Ron Fuhrman, OI Field Rep and OI VP Jerry Schue. 15 new charter member Optimists (and still growing) serving kids in the Dale, Indiana area. Gov. Pat inducted the new members.

New JOOI Club formed

We are happy to announce the formation of the District's newest JOOI Club - the *Rainbow's END Octagon Club*. Co-sponsored by the *Indy Downtown Optimist Club* & the new *Rainbow's END Optimist Club*. Organized by Gov. Pat & Rick France on Sept. 27. (Rick reports that he can't believe he forgot to take a photo). Shame on him! But this is GREAT news.

Optimist Survey for Value Proposition

As we start this next Optimist year, the Optimist International Board of Directors would like your input about the benefits of being an Optimist Member. Would you please click on the link below and answer a brief two question survey in order to help us better define the benefits of being an Optimist Member?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/benefitsenglish>

We would appreciate your participation!



Congrats to *South Spencer* Optimists. Gov. Pat presenting the Club's charter document to charter president Darrell Wilson at their charter celebration dinner. Thanks to the *Santa Claus & Chrisney* Optimist Clubs for building and sponsoring these great folks in Rockport. President Darrell presents their Optimist of the Year award to club member Charles Finecy.



Here is one of Indiana South's newest Optimist Club - these are the officers and directors of the new Rainbow's END Optimist Club commissioned Sept. 6th by OI Field Rep John Reel on the right with District Gov. Pat - Organized with 26 charter members and more on the way. Gov-elect Mike Underwood and Zone 1 Lt Gov-elect Rick Posson were also present. Club builders are Pat and Rick France.



Dawn Wickham (center) of the *Plainfield Optimist Club* receives the Indiana South District Humanitarian of the Year Award. In a surprise presentation, Gov. Pat joined Club President Rusty Diemer (right) in making the presentation at the *Plainfield Club's* meeting. The award was decided at the District's Annual Convention in August but Dawn was unable to attend then, so Rusty kept it a secret until this meeting.



2013-14 Indiana South District First Quarter Conference

October 18-19, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn – Airport
Indianapolis, Indiana
(at Ameriplex Parkway)

Kickoff Conference of the
"Come Soar With Me...for the Kids" Year

Registration form is on the Indiana South District website:
<http://www.optimistindiana.org/2013-14Q1RegForm.pdf>

ALL Presidents and Secretary/Treasurers are urged to attend. All other Optimists are welcome to attend to share in the information and fellowship.

Convention Registration

Mail Form and Remittance to:
Debra Reel, Registrar
1st Quarter District Conference
13880 Willesdon Circle
Fishers, IN 46037

Deadline to pre-register: October 7, 2013
(Walk-ins welcome, but may not be able to register for the Luncheon)

Hotel Reservations

Hilton Garden Inn, Airport
8910 Hatfield Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46231
Tel: (317) 856-9100

Hotel Room Deadline has past. Call the hotel direct.

Share Ron Huxley's story with your Optimist Club and community.

Find out how Ron Huxley, President, Optimist International, became an optimist from adversity. Click on this link: <http://goo.gl/gIRt2Z>

Condolences and heartfelt prayers and thoughts go out to Beth and Jerry Schue. Beth lost her mother to cancer in September.

Plan Your Club's Contests Now



Topic: **“How My Passions Impact the World”**

For rules and further information: <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships4.cfm>



Topic: **"How Dreams Lead to Success"**

For rules and further information: <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm>



Topic: **“How My Passions Impact the World”**

For rules and further information: <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships2.cfm>

Is Your Club on the Internet?

You can help people find your Club. Make sure your info on the on the Clubs page of the Indiana South District website is correct. If there is anything you would like the District web team to fix for your club's listing, please be sure to let us know. Send an email to us at webmaster@indianasouthdistrict.org

Make sure your info on the Optimist International website is correct. If your Club has changed their meeting place and/or time, be sure to update the info on the OI website. It's easy for the Club President or Secretary/Treasurer to do:

TO FIX YOUR CLUB'S MEETING PLACE & TIME INFO on the OI website Clubs Directory:

Log on to Optimist Leaders online (www.optimistleaders.org) for your club. Click the Club Addresses button (left side, about halfway up). Follow the directions and type in the correct info. Remember to Log off when you're finished!

Does your club have its own website? If you make your own web hosting arrangements, please let the District web team know the address, so we can link to your site from the District site's Clubs page, and be sure to let the OI web folks know about your site. As of early July, only three Indiana South clubs have their website listed on the OI Club directory: Avon, Evansville, and Indianapolis.

If your Club is considering starting your own website, keep in mind that there is space available on the District site for hosting Club websites. Let Webmaster Jim know if you would like to have your club's site hosted at no cost on the District site. You can send him an email at webmaster@optimistindiana.org, or give him a call if you have any questions.

You can put Social Networking to work for your club, too. Optimist International has a presence on Facebook, twitter, YouTube, Linked in, and Pinterest. Find all kinds of ideas and getting-started info on the OI Social Networking page: www.optimist.org/e/member/marketing10.cfm



Attention ALL Club Presidents

Presidents of all Clubs in the District serve as members of the District Board of Directors. Make sure to attend your Board meeting at every District Conference and at the Convention.

The Southern Exposure is published for all Optimists located in the Indiana South District, Optimist International. The editor is Paul R. Grant, 770 N County Road 625 E, Avon, IN 46123. Submissions may be sent to p_grant@fastmail.fm and are subject to extreme editing.

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

