



# MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Greetings Optimists!

We are at the beginning of a new Optimist year on October 1<sup>st</sup>! I hope that you are as excited as I am with the dawn of another year where we can serve the needs of youth! Whether your club is a sports club, whether you raise funds and donate them to groups that serve our youth or whether you pursue scholarship programs for them, I will seek out the stories of how our Optimist Clubs are serving the needs of youth.

As we pursue our mission, I hope that all of us will work together and will seek to bring our Optimist Creed to life. Let us value our fellow members and see in them the desire and effort to contribute to our shared mission. Let us rededicate ourselves to wear a cheerful countenance while we are pressing on to the greater achievements of the 2024/2025 Optimist year. Let us take good care of our fellow members and work together to strengthen our existing clubs and to work together to establish new clubs that will dedicate themselves to achieve our mission of supporting youth!

We will undoubtedly encounter challenges throughout the coming year, but while we are dealing with those challenges, let's bring out the best in each other and persevere to overcome those challenges and to achieve even more than we have in the past!

If your club needs my support, or support from our other District Board members, do not hesitate to reach out

to me. We are all dedicated to helping your club become stronger, and look forward to promoting your programs and your successes across our South Texas District. Let's bring out our best!

I'm excited to let you know that we will have some very strong programs during upcoming District Meetings, and we will start our year with a meeting during the weekend of October 11 and 12 in Laredo, Texas. Our Laredo Club will be welcoming us to their city with unmatched hospitality. I'm eager to be there, and we will be planning a program that I trust will be of significant value to your Club. Additional meetings in the San Antonio Area in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter and the Houston area in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter will bring additional sessions that will focus on building membership and on the kinds of programs that give our Clubs meaning and value.

My thanks to all of you who attended our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting, to my own Manchaca Optimist Club members, to last year's District Board members and especially to our immediate Past President, Jym Chenault. Jym and last year's Board did an outstanding job last year!

Thank you for entrusting the job of District Governor to me. Do not hesitate to reach out to me by email at [dpatexas@gmail.com](mailto:dpatexas@gmail.com) or to call me at (512) 791-8027 with your thoughts and your ideas.

Yours in Optimism,  
Doug Allen, Governor

### Club Secretary/Treasurer Corner-1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

Welcome fellow secretaries &/or treasurers!

I plan to use the VOICE to send out quarterly reminders and helpful hints for these very important club roles.

First, you should have received a link to Optimist Leader which allows you to access the club roster at OI. If you have been in the role prior to this year, your old links should work. Any issues, contact [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org).

Then you should also have a link to Optimist Institute which allows you to access the required training for the roles. Again, if you already had access that should continue to work. Any issues, contact [institute@optimist.org](mailto:institute@optimist.org).

Then a few things to check on right away. Please make sure that all roster info is current, specifically emails and phone numbers for all members.

Next, by 15 February 2025, all clubs are required to file with the IRS. Since most of the clubs make under \$50,000.00 per year, the Form 990-N (e-postcard) will suffice.

It also might be a good idea to check on your club's status with the Texas Secretary of State: nonprofit status. The regular club is a 501c4 but I know some clubs also have a listing as a 501c3 status. Periodic filings are required every 4 years. FYI, my club has one of our members who is a lawyer as the agent for this.

Look forward to seeing you at district meetings. And again, if I can be of assistance, please contact me.

Carol Hodges  
District secretary/treasurer  
[cahhanc@aol.com](mailto:cahhanc@aol.com)  
409-789-1778

### OI Foundation

I am writing this article after just returning yesterday from our District Convention in Buda. I want to thank all those that brought items for the Silent and Live auction. We had such a good time and some very interesting items to bid on. In all I will be sending in \$1344 that will be going to the Foundation. I do know of at least one club that will be sending in to receive their 365 patch for 2024. I am hoping we will end up the year in the top 10 of the 39 districts. Please remember to continue bringing items for the auctions at all of our District meetings. Anything is acceptable, you never know, someone just might love that item that just was not your cup of tea. I have enjoyed gathering items for the silent auction and will continue to find those treasures.

Nancy Mason  
[ndm1955@aol.com](mailto:ndm1955@aol.com), 210 241-0279

## Achievements and Awards

Does your club participate in The A & A Program??? If not then let me introduce you to a program that will surely help you track your clubs progress. This program is designed to not only award you for completing several objectives each quarter, but you can also use this as a guideline for what direction your club is going.

Simply go to the district website (STXD.ORG), complete the online form for the Achievements & Awards Program, and send it to me..... Fay Hopkins, your A&A Chairperson for the upcoming 2024-2025 Optimist Year beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. My address will be at the bottom of the form. It is that easy! All forms are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month following the end of each quarter. You may find another award presented to your club at the following district conference. And you will be one step ahead on how your club is doing!

Fay Hopkins  
A&A Chairperson 2024-2025

## Leadership and Development

This year as your Leadership and Development chairman, I am hoping we will have fun, exciting activities and useful training for all. If you have an idea or have seen a training that helped you, please let me know. I want you to WANT to attend District Meetings and then take something useful home to your clubs. At our first meeting in Laredo, I have an activity that we will all get to know each other a little better then find out more about what your club does and how we can help each other to gain new members and to retain those new members.

Our new International President, our own Jan Oord Graves has given us 3 goals. She wants all clubs to Reshape our Focus.

1. Growth. By the end of September, 2025, she is wanting the OI membership to increase by 5% more than the number we started with October 1, 2024. For our district that is about 40 new members, I know we can do this if every club works at recruiting. We need to engage new members in committees.
2. Marketing and Communication. There are so many ways to market your club through Social Media and even internally with newsletters, emails, and even texts. The best way for OI to let you know of new programs is through emails, be sure your email is up to date and if it changes, let your Secretary know.
3. Financial Stability. Clubs need to be sure dues are kept current and up to date. Clubs can obtain sponsorships to help with finances also.

These next few months are when clubs do a lot of projects in the community. Good luck with all those projects and make your club known more in the community. Be that ripple in the water that expands and reaches to many others.

Nancy Mason, [ndm1955@aol.com](mailto:ndm1955@aol.com), 210 241-0279

## Essay Contest 2024 – 2025

THE DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST WINNER WILL RECEIVE A  
**\$2,500 SCHOLARSHIP**



Now is the time to begin preparations for your Club's Essay Contest. If your Club does not currently have an Essay Contest you should start participating. This is a great opportunity to give the youth in your area writing experience as well as a chance for a \$2,500 scholarship. Your Club needs only one member to participate but several members can participate if they are available.

The Club chairperson first becomes familiar with the rules and sets the dates for the contest to begin and end. He or she then gives the applications to schools, churches and other places where you serve youth in your area. The chairperson then selects three qualified judges who are not acquainted with the writers of the essays to pick the top three essays from all of the essays received. At the Club level, the judges may be Optimist Club members. Finally, the Club chairperson delivers the Club's winning essay to the District Chairperson.

### Cost

- ◆ A \$10.00 fee to South Texas District is required.
- ◆ Each Club may award medallions to their winners. These are optional and cost about \$20.00.
- ◆ Other awards are permitted at the Club level. Details are in the Club Chair's rules.

### Benefits

- ◆ Participants get experience writing the essays.
- ◆ The District winner receives a Scholarship of \$2,500.00.
- ◆ The Club has an opportunity for a meeting program. Invite the three winners to a meeting to read their essays and receive their awards. Also, invite their parents to attend. They may join your club.

### Summary of Key Items

- ◆ The official topic for 2024-2025 is "**How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success**". The essay contest is open to students under age 19 as of October 1, 2024.
- ◆ The Club winning essay along with the other required documents and the \$10.00 District fee **must be received by the District contest chair on or before February 28, 2024.**
- ◆ "Received" means:
  - By e-mail – on or before February 28, 2025 – email to [galester@sbcglobal.net](mailto:galester@sbcglobal.net)
  - By U.S. mail postmarked on or before February 28, 2025.
  - Mail to: Greg Lester, 1426 Trace, Houston, Texas 77077

NOTE !! DO NOT SEND CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY CURRIER (FEDEX, UPS, ETC.)

The \$10.00 check must be mailed but is not subject to the February 28, 2025 deadline.

For more information go to [optimist.org/Essay](http://optimist.org/Essay) and click Club Essay Planning Guide.

Greg Lester, Chair

## **South Texas District First Quarter Meeting October 11-12, 2024**

### **La Posada Hotel, Laredo, TX**

We are looking forward to the First District meeting which will take place in the vibrant town of Laredo on October 11 & 12. The District conference is going to be a enjoyable weekend filled with fellowship with Optimists!

Don't delay, submit in your registration form today!

#### **Friday, October 11:**

6:00 p.m. Hello Party at the La Posada Bar

#### **Saturday, October 12:**

8:30-9:15 a.m.	Registration
9:15 a.m.	Secretary-Treasurer Report
9:30 a.m.	Lieutenant Governors Reports
10:00 a.m.	Optimist Institute – Using our Training Tool
11:00 a.m.	Strengthening Club Membership
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Club Membership Workshop
1:00 p.m.	OIF Auction
1:30 p.m.	District Support for Membership Stability and Growth
3:00 p.m.	Achievements & Awards
6:00 p.m.	Social
6:30 p.m.	Dinner and Halloween Costume Contest

South Texas District  
Optimist International  
Carol Hodges, Secretary/Treasurer  
61 Lebrun Court  
Galveston, TX 77551-1565

## **ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

Optimist International:  
<http://www.optimist.org>  
South Texas District:  
<http://www.stxd.org>



## **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 COUNTEenance 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.**

### **Purposes of the Optimist Club**

- ◆ To develop optimism as a philosophy of life;
- ◆ To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
- ◆ To inspire respect for the law;
- ◆ To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
- ◆ To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of man, his community and world.