



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Greetings Optimists!

Our Second Quarterly meeting was a great one to have attended. We had a wonderful Hello Party on Friday night thanks to the great work under Shirley Bratton's lead to get all the San Antonio clubs to host the party. Great food and drinks of all choices were enjoyed.

Training was covered on areas needed on achievements and awards. There are numerous clubs that do not participate and we are trying to change that so all clubs can be recognized for all the work they do. It is a very simple process that can gain awards for the clubs. Thank you to Jack Hopkins for giving this class.

Another area that needs attention are the required officer training courses. The Optimist Institute is where an officer goes to see and complete these courses. In order for a club to get any honors, all officers must complete their training.

While at the meeting we received sad news about one of our past Governors, Gill Ortiz. He served many roles during his great life as an

Optimist member. He was currently serving as one of my Lt. Governor's. There will be a fund set-up in his honor, going to the O.I. Foundation, honoring Gil. Prayers for all of his family.

April 19th and 20th will be the next district meeting. It will be held in Baytown and the site of the District Oratorical Contest. Please come to listen to these great kids giving their presentations. All meals will be free for lunch and supper on Saturday.

One last note to all is that Doug Allen is our Governor-Elect for next year and he is now recruiting help for his 2024-25 team. Please help us out to fill Secretary/Treasurer and new Lt. Governor positions.

Next is the Fourth Quarterly meeting. It will be August 23rd and 24th in Buda. We will be swearing in our new officers.

Thank you all for what you do.

Preserve Optimism,
Governor Jym Chenault



A True Optimist ~ Gil Ortiz June 19, 1940 - February 9, 2024

I am honored to let you know a little about our good Optimist friend Gil Ortiz. We will miss him terribly along with his family and great friends. Gil poured more hours into Optimist clubs, our South Texas District and Optimist International than many of us ever will. Some say what you do between those two dates tell a lot about a person. Gil did not disappoint and served well. I met Gil around 2008. At that point Gil had already been an Optimist member for 25 years joining the Greater Southwest club in Austin in 1983. Although always a member of Greater Southwest, he also was a member of 4 other clubs. Let's start oh so many years ago. It was not until 1994 that he started taking on larger roles and he never stopped. He became a Club President (1994), a Lt. Governor of several zones (1996, 1997, 2011, 2015, 2016, and 2021), and in 2001 and 2018 he became Governor of the South Texas District. While Governor in 2018, he was also his Club Secretary. In 2006 he started with International jobs which continued through 2024. In 2009 he was the Regional Vice President of Region 7. Throughout all these years, he served as several District Officers. Gil was a true ambassador for Optimist International. He brought in 31 members and helped start 7 new clubs and for which he was awarded a Builder of Excellence 7 times. One of his visions came through last year. When I was Governor, he and Joe Smith approached me and said, "We need to get Jan Oord Graves nominated for International President." Gil took the job to get letters written for Jan. I know he will be smiling from above on October 1, 2024 when Jan becomes our next International President. Gil was such a great supporter of me as Governor when many times I was lost at what to do. I so enjoyed talking to him too about his casino trips. That is one "sport" he loved.

This is just a snippet of things that Gil did over the years. The phrase, "Ask someone busy to do something and it will get done." That was Gil to a tee. I will truly miss my friend. As Gil would say "Hook'em Horns."

With his family's support, we have created a way for you to honor Gil's memory by donating to the Optimist International Foundation. The Foundation was very special to Gil and I know he would be pleased. You can send directly to the OI Foundation, please put in memory of Gil Ortiz, South Texas District in the memo, or can send to me. I do have forms for "in memory of" I can fill out if you send to me. The family will receive a notice once a donation has been received to the Foundation. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Optimist International Foundation
PO Box 952126
St. Louis, MO 63195-2126

Nancy Mason
1711 Bear Oak
Schertz, TX 78154

Nancy Mason, ndm1955@aol.com, 210 241-0279

Childhood Health & Wellness Program

I hope each club had a great second quarter doing great things for the South Texas District (STXD) Optimist International Club youth. I look forward to our Clubs applying for Optimist International Foundation Childhood Health & Wellness Grants in 2023-2024 to aid in projects and services your club is doing.

Childhood Health & Wellness will include four focus areas: **Healthy Lifestyles, Chronic Diseases, Mental Health, and Disabilities – Physical, Intellectual & Developmental.**

Information on OI Childhood Health & Wellness programs, grants, and grant application directions can be found at www.optimist.org/member/health-and-wellness.cfm

During the second quarter training I discussed the Optimists Working for Learning Success (O.W.L.S.) program. This is a new signature program introduced by OI President Bob McFayden at the 2023 International Convention and just approved by the Board of Directors as a pilot program. Through O.W.L.S., Optimist Clubs will partner with local schools or classrooms to provide nutrition, clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, tutoring, and mentoring to help students thrive.

Clubs can partner with schools and/or classrooms to read to children, to tutor/mentor, or participate in school supply drive backpack programs and more. This is a great opportunity to partner with a local school and submit your idea for a grant. Grant submissions are due to the Optimist International Foundation on August 23, 2024.

For more information on O.W.L.S. or to watch the 30 Minute Webinar go to: **Optimist International/ Leadership Development/ Login/ Optimist Media Library/ Watch: OWLS: LD Webinar November 2023.**

See you April 19-21, 2024 in Baytown for the next district meeting!

V/r - Shirley Bratton, STXD Childhood Health & Wellness, Chairperson

Being an Effective Nonprofit Leader

How would you describe yourself? Type A person? Used to getting As? I think all of us who volunteer in civic groups/religious settings/foundation boards/PTOs, etc., are at least a bit of that. We want to make a difference. We want to bring hope and positive vision to those around us and to ourselves.

I read an article recently that listed 8 habits of highly effective nonprofit leaders. It was the author's tip-o-the-hat to Stephen Covey's *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

So here are Joan Garry's habits we should be practicing.

Habit 1 – Ask for help – share the leadership!

Habit 2 – Talk less, listen more – really listen to others!

Habit 3 – Exude passion – show it!

Habit 4 – Ask really good questions – word then to trigger discussion/thoughts!

Habit 5 – Touch the work – what really matters!

Habit 6 – Get uncomfortable being uncomfortable – learn how to handle difficult conversations!

Habit 7 – Apologize more often – say I'm sorry without excuses!

Habit 8 – Be joyful – practice The Optimist Creed!

And she added this one from Covey: sharpen the saw! Take time to develop your skills & deepen your knowledge.

So go for it!

Carol Hodges
Chair, Leadership Development

OI Foundation Update

The February District Meeting was great in donations. Many silent auction items and several wonderful Live Auction items. You are all so very generous. We raised \$2,523.50 which will move us up in giving. I will be anxious to give you results at our next meeting in Baytown. Bringing your auction items gets us all involved and there is just no telling what will show up. I thank you all for anything you bring. If your club would like to go in and make a large basket that is usually for our Live Auction. We also do our 50-50. First Lady Shirley Chenault was lucky enough to win in February. Wonder if she shared with Governor Jym.

The Foundation does so much to provide for so many programs. In Baytown we will be having our Oratorical contest, the Foundation will provide scholarship funds for that program. I hope we have many in attendance to give support to all our contestants. If anyone would like to donate to the Foundation in memory of our friend Gil Ortiz, more information is in another article.

See you in Baytown.

Nancy Mason, ndm1955@aol.com, 210 241-0279

Zone #2 - South Texas District - Optimist International

Austin Optimist Club is enjoying their new meeting location and still counting the funding made on this year's Christmas Tree sale.

North Austin Optimist Club has their 2024 baseball program underway and is proud of the leadership in charge of the program this year.

Austin-University Hills has their youth program) underway and is satisfied with the leadership in charge for this season.

Town & Country-Round Rock has all their programs for this year underway. They have more youngsters involved than they can count. the most outstanding programs in all of central Texas.

Pflugerville Optimist is rocking along as in the past few years. There is some consideration to give them an insensitive to double membership and take on a new project.

Austin Walnut Creek Optimist Club is rocking along with the their monthly adult activity which has somewhat increased in resent months.

Plan to see all in Baytown in April !!

Jerry Eschberger, Lt. Governor Zone #2

Zone #3 - South Texas District - Optimist International

The Manchaca Optimist Club concluded another successful "Adopt a Family" campaign for the Christmas season at the end of 2023. Members of the Club adopted three families in need and provided a significant gift for each to ensure that their children were able to have a real Christmas. Gifts to the families started at \$ 500 per family.

The Spring Baseball season has begun at the Manchaca Optimist Youth Sports Complex, with more than 1,000 players participating in baseball and softball. The complex, built by the Manchaca Optimist Club, is located at 2145 FM 1626 near Bliss Spillar Road and features a total of seven baseball and softball fields. Spring Season games will continue through May.

Douglas P Allen, Governor-Elect, South Texas District

Zone #4 - South Texas District - Optimist International

Happy Third Quarter Optimist Members!!!

What a wonderful Second Quarter South Texas District Meeting in San Antonio we had. I learned a lot and I laughed a lot. I do want to give a special shout out and thank you to the Zone 4 Clubs who hosted the Hello Party. It was great to see everyone, especially several Zone 4 Club Presidents. I appreciate you all! And I would be remised without giving a **BIG** Thank You to our Governor Jym and his wife, Shirley Chenault for all you do to make our district meetings a success!

I am looking forward to Zone 4 clubs coming together for a Zone Club Meeting & Service Project this year. I'm open to your ideas & suggestions. Don't forget to turn in your achievements & awards to Stan White for all the great things you did in the Second Quarter. Let me know if you need anything. I'm still looking for your post on the South Texas District Facebook Page.

Keep "Bringing Out The Best In Youth." See you in Baytown this April for the next South Texas District Meeting!!!

Shirley Bratton, STXD Lt Governor Zone 4

South Texas District Third Quarter Meeting April 19-21, 2024

Springhill Suites, Baytown, TX

The Third District meeting will take place in the historically rich city of Baytown on April 19, 20, & 21.

The District conference is going to be a wonderful weekend filled with training and fellowship!

Don't delay, you need to submit in your registration form so you will qualify for the free meals!

All Functions at Baytown Optimist Club Clubhouse

1724 Market Street

Baytown, TX 77520

(Next door to the Wetlands Center)

Friday, April 19:

6:00 p.m. Hello Party

Saturday, April 20:

8:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. General Session

Noon Lunch

2:00 p.m. Oratorical Contest

6:30 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. OIF Auction

Sunday, April 21:

Breakfast on your own and Checkout

South Texas District
Optimist International
Jym Chenault, Governor
308 Glenmoor Drive
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-3411

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 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**

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.