

UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2022!

As we begin 2022, we are already into month 4 of the Optimist year. I am sure all the clubs have been busy the last few months. I hope you have made a video of a project to add to our District video. Please send your video to me, ndm1955@aol.com by January 15 so we will have it for the district meeting in February.

If you missed the District meeting in Kerrville, you missed a great time. Thanks again to the Fredericksburg club for the wonderful Hello party. We enjoyed fellowship out on the patio and the food was delicious and plenty of it.

Saturday was a full day with first having our annual memorial service remembering those Optimists we lost in the last year. Our next memorial service will be in August, 2022. We then had presentations on the LMS and how to motivate your club. The presentation from the Last Chance Forever, The Bird of Prey Conservancy was so informative and everyone got a close up with several Birds of Prey. The OI Foundation auction was so much fun and happy to say we raised over \$3000.00. We are so lucky to have our very own auctioneer Jerry Eschberger to encourage us to bid. We learned dates to have the essays in and how to get started with the Oratorical contest. More about that further in this edition.

We look forward to the next District Meeting February 4-6 at Wingate by Wyndham and Williamson Conference Center in Round Rock. This hotel is a little different. The food will be catered in for lunch and dinner on Saturday. They do serve breakfast, more like a Continental

breakfast so bring goodies if you would like. The North Austin Optimist club will be sponsoring the Hello Party on Friday night. Saturday will be a busy day. Be sure to check the schedule for what will be going on. Looking forward to a special presentation from Craig Boring, Executive Director Optimist International Foundation. The CCDHH contest will be in the afternoon. I so look forward to this as I have never seen one. Beverley Oaks has worked hard to get this all organized.

After dinner we will hear from a nationally and internationally known author, Damon West. Read all about him on the South Texas District website: <http://www.stxd.org/> He will be bringing books to sign for us. Sunday we will end with our General Session.

I hope you have all read your Optimist magazine that arrived in November. President Patsy Garner outlined her goals for the year and what she hopes we all will accomplish. The emphasis this quarter is A Philosophy of Life (Purposes). Optimist Day is February 3, 2022. I hope every club will have some type of project or activity to promote Optimism. There are many programs and community activities coming up. Kathy Woodruff has explained many of these in this edition.

Hope to see many of you in Round Rock in February.

Yours in Optimism,

Nancy Mason Governor
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Hello Fellow South Texas Optimists,

The South Texas Optimists had an extraordinary meeting in Kerrville in October – motivation, information, fellowship and birds of prey! We also had fantastic support from our membership for our Optimist International Foundation, raising over \$3500! In addition our Women's Philanthropy Council Board member Carol Hodges tells me we had 7 Optimists sign up for the WPC! South Texas Optimists, Y'All are the Best!

Don't miss out on our second quarter meeting. Who knows what fun and excitement Governor Nancy has planned for us! One thing that I can tell you is that we will have a distinguished guest at our meeting in Round Rock. Craig Boring, Executive Director of the OI Foundation will be there with us. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Craig in person.

The OIF offers Clubs numerous opportunities for Club Grants.

- The Childhood Health and Wellness Grant will be open for Clubs three times during the Optimist year. The CH&W grant application and information is available on the OIF website oifoundation.org (Click on Clubs, click on resources). The 1st deadline for submitting the grant application is January 28, 2022. The Health and Wellness Grant is available for either a new program or a continuing program that your Club may be doing; however, a Club can only receive a grant one time for a specific project
- The Club Matching Grant application will be available on the OIF website January 6, 2022 and is due on March 16, 2022. The Club Matching Grant is for new programs only that your Club is doing.

A major goal this year is to increase the number of members who donate. The amount does not have to be huge but whatever works for the individual. \$5, \$10, \$20 would be appreciated. Please consider donating at the Dime-A-Day level. That adds up to \$36.50. You will receive the Dime-A-Day pin as a recognition for your donation.

Thanks for all you do to help Optimists Help Kids!

Yours in Optimism,

Jan and Gil

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Becoming/Recruiting an Amazing Volunteer

A recent article in my local paper written by Metro Creative Connection listed 7 ways to becoming an amazing volunteer. As I read it, it occurred to me that while I may be looking to be an amazing volunteer these same steps could be used to recruit an amazing volunteer.

STEP 1. Educate yourself about the charity or organization:

What information do we share about our organization? Does your club have a website and/or Facebook page? Optimist International is currently taking a hard look at its own web site so expect to see changes coming there. They are seriously looking at how the organization brands/markets itself.

STEP 2. Bring your enthusiasm and energy:

Are your meetings and projects filled with enthusiasm and energy?

STEP 3. Be honest about your interests:

Do we match members/potential members with their interests?

STEP 4. Be dependable:

While we expect our members to be dependable, are we as leaders or project chairs also dependable?

STEP 5. Be prepared to be flexible:

Things happen! Be ready to meet the challenges and most importantly communicate when things need to change!

STEP 6. Embrace your creativity:

Listen to everyone! Be willing to try new ideas or a twist on an old one.

STEP 7. Be selfless:

Give credit where credit is due. Praise in public; give constructive criticism in private. Very seldom is a successful project a one person show and that goes for times when things don't go so well.

Carol Hodges, Chair, Communications, Technology, & Marketing

Stabilizing Optimist Clubs and Starting New Clubs

The most rewarding event of an Optimist member is to be involved in the starting of a new Optimist club or the addition of a new member upon your invitation. It, of course, doesn't happen without some dedicated effort. This South Texas Optimist District started this new year with 977 members in 42 clubs which means we had an average of about 23 members in each club. Most of you know that there are many of our clubs way below that number and could use a membership boost. When we discuss how we can accomplish that feat we get into a serious conversation. May I suggest one of the simplest ways is for your club to hold a "NOW MEETING" (New Optimist Wanted). Many of you are familiar with these meetings, but if not, I would be happy to walk any of you through the way it can be accomplished in your club and help any club that wants to plan for doing so. There is not anything magic about holding a "NOW MEETING" it is simply an Optimist member explaining to a group of invited guests (potential optimists) what the organization does and how it does it. That event does not eliminate any optimist from inviting an acquaintance to join his or her club. This can be done in your club a.) to add a member(s) to your club b.) to form a club within a club or c.) to start a completely new Optimist Club. Usually new and additional clubs are started in areas away from your club's meeting area. It is often said optimism is a very well-kept secret so we simply need to do our best to spread the word to the world we live in. You cannot do it alone and I cannot do it alone but together as an organization we can surely make steps to undo that perception. I look forward to your call.

Jerry Eschberger 512-923-3930 512-251-9566 ajeschberger@gmail.com

HELLO FROM THE GOVERNOR-ELECT

It is with great honor, privilege, and humility that I accept this task and responsibility, as Governor-Elect of the South Texas District of Optimist International. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to work with some amazing people to make a difference in the lives of young people. My goal is not to reinvent the wheel, but to continue the strategy of making life better for the young people throughout our communities. I will share more in the next newsletter.

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the blessings and joy of the holiday season!

Russell LeDay, Governor-Elect

DISTRICT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The centerfold in the previous Optimist magazine listed the many projects that South Texas District Optimist clubs can institute to benefit the youth of their communities while also bringing a spirit of togetherness in those communities. I wanted to highlight several of these projects as possible activities for your club.

Optimist Photography Contest

Photographers for the contest should be students at any age up through high school and prior to post-secondary education. Students are asked to submit photos that illustrate/exemplify one of the ten verses/lines of "The Optimist Creed". This contest's purpose is to expose young people to "The Optimist Creed" and our philosophy of Optimism and to assist them with developing an interest in the area of photography. A display of the photos would make a wonderful program for your club.

Optimist Visual Arts Competition

This exciting program is designed to encourage and celebrate youth visual art skills in two categories – painting and drawing. Scholarships will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the OI level for each category. The Optimist Visual Arts Competition – Paintings and Drawings gives the youth we serve another outlet for their creativity.

Optimists Spark Fun in the Park

This Optimist International event is staged at the club level annually where clubs can choose any date to host their event. (Spring would be a good time of year in hot South Texas.) This fun and exciting event has been coined to target JOI and College Club members, working with adult Optimist Club Members. The event will further facilitate camaraderie between JOI, College Club Members, adult Optimist Members, and the community at large, while providing an avenue for meaningful interaction and care for children with differing abilities by our Optimist Members at all levels. It is a fun way of sharing our philosophy of Optimism to a wider cross section of the children we serve globally.

More information about each of these projects is available on the OI website, www.optimist.org/member/activities1.cfm.

In conjunction with the club contests, members are asked to celebrate Optimism all over the world on Optimist Day, February 3, 2022, right before our next South Texas District meeting in Round Rock. Wear your Optimist pin, hat, shirt, whatever to show your community that we are here and we are ready to help the youth.

Kathy Woodruff, District Chair

South Texas District Second Quarter Meeting, February 4, 5 & 6, 2022**Wingate by Wyndham & Williamson Conference Center**

We are pleased to announce that the Second District meeting will take place on February 4, 5 & 6, 2022 in Round Rock! The District conference is going to be a wonderful weekend filled with fellowship with Optimists all over South Texas.

Get your registration in today!

Friday, February 4:

6:30 p.m. Hospitality, North Austin Optimist Club

Saturday, February 5:

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting

10:15 a.m. WOW Membership Presentation- Denise Nacey, Optimist International
Chairman

11:00 a.m. Community Programs and Projects- Kathy Woodruff

Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Optimist Foundation Auction

1:45 p.m. CCDHH contest- Beverley Oaks

6:00 p.m. Social

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. "Be a Coffee Bean" - Guest Speaker, Damon West

Sunday, February 6:

7:00 a.m. Breakfast (on your own)

9:00 a.m. General Session

South Texas District
Optimist International
Nancy Mason
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Schertz, TX 78154– 3650

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.