

Continue the Excellence

The South Texas District had an excellent year last year. Under Governor Fay's leadership, great District Meetings provided a platform for some tremendous training, great Optimist fun, and execution of the District's business. Clubs in the District provided a myriad of wonderful programs to work with kids in local neighborhoods. So let's "*Continue the Excellence*".

With all the current political strife, and the evident change in our nation's focus, it is the kids who will be left out. They will need our caring and involvement more than ever. The strength of the Optimist movement will become very evident in the next few years, and it is up to us to give the kids more Optimists to help them. We need to continue all the good things we do, but we need to be serious about District growth. Jerry Eschberger and Ron Graves are again heading the District Membership and New Club Building, and each of us is on the District Membership committee.



In Corpus Christi, I have scheduled a meeting room at 2:00 Saturday afternoon. I wanted to have an open forum to listen to ideas you have, and answer any questions or concerns. So I will be there, and I hope you will feel free to drop in and discuss any and all subjects you want.

I hope to see all of you in Corpus Christi November 6th, 7th, and 8th. The Holiday Inn Emerald Beach is a great place for a meeting. Experience the perfect blend of casual relaxation and business convenience, with the most unique hotel location in downtown Corpus Christi. Just minutes from downtown businesses, you can enjoy fresh sea air and sand between your toes as you walk the beach behind the hotel. The spacious bay front rooms, with fantastic views of the bay and marina feature free high-speed Internet. Just a ten minute drive or open air trolley ride gets you to area attractions, such as Texas State Aquarium or the USS Lexington Museum. See you there...

--Governor Jack Hopkins

LEADERSHIP TRAINING - WE CAN DO THIS

By now I'm sure most clubs have kicked off their programs as we kick off our new Optimist year. I know for sure that our Governor Jack is working hard to ensure that we "**Continue the Excellence**" that this District is renowned for throughout Optimist International.

As we approach our 1st Quarter Conference I would ask you to confer with your club and plan to attend. We are working hard to ensure we present programs of interest and value for the members at the Conferences throughout the year. The opportunities for our members and clubs can reach far beyond mere attendance.

We believe that the University of Optimism will once more surpass past successes. I feel confident that the classes we have scheduled for the 1st Quarter Conference will be fresh, informative and of real value. At the 1st Quarter Conference I have planned classes on specifically how to conduct a NOW

Program meeting, Internet Safety that was so informative and well received at the 4th Quarter Convention, a New Member Orientation (so please ask that all of your new members attend the conference), a class outlining the Oratorical Contest club procedures, How to Prepare and Submit a CPA Book, and Using the Optimist Internet Sites (also a favorite at the 4th Quarter Convention). Each program has been designed with the goal of providing viable topics of genuine value to our members and our Clubs with the hope of generating more interest in attending the Conference. Come and visit with us for these dynamic classes.

Ask your members attending the Conference to bring new members to the Conference so they can share the Optimist experience. And please remember together we can have a genuinely successful year, and by doing so we can surely "**Continue the Excellence!**"

—Al Randez, Leadership Development Director