

# Membership

Well it is time to turn the page on last year and make a dynamic start with the new year. We are so blessed with opportunity for service and everyone will agree that the more members we have the more service we can provide. All clubs are encouraged to set membership goals as we enter this new year. To fulfill your goals it will require **action** on the part of someone; that means someone will have to actually **extend an invitation**. Identify who. It is so rewarding to bring in a new member and see them get involved with service to our youth and the community. Your club can have an outstanding year of growth and service with the addition of some new members, new thoughts, and new ideas.

How can we keep the members we now have? We must have meetings that are worth attending. We have the responsibility of keeping them **interesting, fun, and informative**. Start a new activity so your club will not become stagnant. We all have a responsibility for improving our club and making a difference in our communities.

Join me in getting it done.

—Jerry Eschberger, Membership Director

## Optimist, Can You Spare a Dime?

Throughout this Optimist Year we will be exploring the various programs of the Optimist International Foundation, and we will learn more of the benefits made available to all of our Clubs by supporting the Foundation. Our first quarter emphasis will be on two programs, the individual *Dime-A-Day* and the club *Dollar-A-Day* programs.

**Dime-A-Day:** Can you spare a dime a day? Not really difficult when you understand that a dime a day helps build a future where every kid counts. So, let's get started with a few tips on how you can achieve success with this program. How about by passing the vending machine or skipping the fries (Boy I know I need to do this). How about ordering plain coffee instead of a "Grande Cappuccino," or how about the suggestion that we heard at the recent DFR meeting. The point was made that most every day we wind up with loose change in our pocket or purse. Why not have a container on your dresser and make a deposit of the days change regardless of the amount.

Now what do you get for this effort? Well, for your final gift of \$36.50 you will receive from the Foundation a Certificate of Appreciation along with a beautiful lapel pin. From the South

Texas District, if you have completed your gift on or before July 1, 2010, your name will be entered into a drawing for a free registration, including meals, at our 2010 District Convention. But most rewarding is the satisfaction of knowing that by supporting the Foundation you provide for scholarships and other needed programs for the kids.

**Dollar-A-Day:** This is a club focused program in which your club is being asked to give an unrestricted gift of \$365.00. This can be achieved through a special fund raiser as one of your annual service projects. Your club will be recognized by the Foundation and as a special bonus your club's name will be entered into a drawing for a complete set of hand crafted golf clubs valued at more than \$650.00. You can in turn use the clubs as a fund raiser or in any fashion left to your club's imagination.

So come on Optimists, let's get motivated. If your club has yet to name a Club Foundation Representative (CFR), now is the time to do so. There will be more information available at the South Texas District meeting in November, as we gather in Corpus Christi.

—Ed Finn, District Foundation Representative

## Climb To The Top

I would like to thank Hank Hollyday, who has really worked hard to increase the number of district members participating in the Personal Growth & Involvement (PGI) program in the last year. "Job well done, Hank!"

When I was asked by Jack and Hank to be the 2009-2010 PGI Director, I thought "Why me? I'm just at Level I, nowhere near the top at Level X". So I sat down with my personal PGI passports and started marking off all of the requirements that I had already accomplished in my few years as an Optimist member. It was amazing to see how many requirements I was easily able to check off by just going to meetings and getting involved with both my club and our district helping so many children. I would like to ask you to take a few minutes to sit down and see how high you too, have climbed. I'm sure that everyone has experienced highs and lows throughout the past year, but that is all the more reason to "CLIMB TO THE TOP" in the PGI program, where the view is so self-fulfilling – just ask one of our own Level X district members.

There will be many chances to advance your personal ranking in the PGI program, including training modules that will be conducted at all of the district meetings and other surprises during the coming year. I encourage you to continue (or start) your climb, as I plan to do.

It's hard to believe we are already welcoming in the 2009-2010 new year. If you are currently climbing the PGI ladder – GREAT, keep going! If not, why not start your climb right now? For more information or help getting your club members started in this worthwhile program, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to our "CLIMB TO THE TOP" together this year!

— Sue Stuart, PGI Director