

# 2009-2010 Essay Contest

NEW THIS YEAR—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 share of the scholarship money awarded at the various levels of competition. Your Club needs only one member to participate but several members can join in 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 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 usually awards medallions to their three winners. These are optional and cost about \$20.00.
- Other awards are permitted. 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 International winners receive a Scholarship of \$6,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$3,750 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$2,250 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- 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.

## Summary of Key Items

- The official topic for 2009-2010 is: "The Internet: Today's Evolution or Tomorrow's Menace?"
- The essay contest is open to youth under the age of 19 as of December 31, 2009.
- 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, 2010. The rules and the needed forms can be found on the South Texas District web site. Go to [www.stxd.org](http://www.stxd.org) and under PROGRAMS click on "Essay Contest". Clubs that do not have access to the web should contact me at (281) 597-1300 and leave your name, mailing address and a message requesting a copy of the rules and the application.

—Greg Lester, Essay Contest Chair person

## Orange Noon — Optimist Village Update

To update you on the burned out building. It is moving along real well. The brick layers are two thirds the way through. The metal roof was started on September the 7th. Electricians and plumbers are here. The new French Patio doors are here and all of the air conditioners are here in the parking lot. We are targeting Thanksgiving for our finish date or that's what the builders say. I say at least Christmas time.

The residents that were displaced by the fire have started to call. The flood people call and the whole town is calling to ask us when we are going to open our waiting list.

Our own residents that were burned out are still in great need of furniture any kind. Tables & chairs, recliners, couches. We are buying everyone a new bed. Wednesday the 19th of August we had a BBQ Fundraiser, lots of workers and residents came. We did around \$500. That will all go toward helping residents replace their furniture. The money goes so fast and the work is so hard.

—Darlene Wissing, Orange Noon Optimist Club

## Community Project Awards Program

Last year one of the requirements to make Honor Club was to do a Community Project Awards book in the category of Community Service or Fundraising. International is continuing this requirement.

Because there have been many changes to the program it is imperative that you download the new rules and regulations. All of the CPA information, including rules, format and deadlines is available on the Optimist website, [www.Optimist.org](http://www.Optimist.org).

If you did not get to take the training on the CPA books last year, come to the first quarter board meeting

November 6-8 in Corpus Christi. There will be hands on training on how to put the CPA books together. This training will take place 11:00-11:25 in the Marlin room on Saturday, November 7. There will be a sample CPA book to look at and all questions will be answered.

I look forward working with each of the clubs to achieve this goal.

If you have questions please feel free to call me at 361-664-4229 or Cell # 361-701-7188. You can also email me at [maggieliz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maggieliz@sbcglobal.net).

See in you Corpus Christi.

—Margaret Smith, Community Project Awards Chairperson.