

Membership

We are now starting the second quarter of this new Optimist year. Our Governor Jack is working very hard to make this a successful year. It is with excitement that I report that the District has added **thirty (30) new members** in the first ninety (90) days of this year. This was done by the efforts of ten (10) of the sixteen (16) Zones in our South Texas District, and by fourteen (14) of our seventy nine (79) clubs. We now have about 45 days before we meet in Houston which gives us the opportunity to **double that amount** before then.

I know that almost all members have someone in mind that they want to ask to join the organization. I would encourage you to **do it now**, do not wait. Many clubs will be putting together "NOW" programs in January which is an excellent time to "just ask". Meetings of this type can be a lot of fun and very productive. Please do not hesitate to call if I can assist in any way. This district has a very good record of adding members, we had a gain last year and we can and will do it again with your dedicated support. Let's get all **clubs moving** toward increasing their size.

All Lt. Governors will have an excellent opportunity to talk up membership growth at their Zone meetings. For every new member we bring into optimism, we greatly increase the potential of **helping kids**.

The other half of membership is keeping the ones we have. Why do members continue to belong to your club? They are looking for a genuine way to be part of making a difference in the lives of other individuals. They are also looking for meetings that are interesting, fun and exciting. It doesn't matter how old they are, they want to have and experience that is meaningful. Therefore do all you can to make your optimist club as active and as involved as possible. You may be the president of one of the make it happen type members. **Make it happen**.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF OPTIMISM

Hi folks! Let me say thanks for your support and participation at the first session of the University of Optimism. Because of your attendance we had a full 90 participants in our training sessions. We are now preparing for the Second Quarter Conference at the Marriott Westchase Hotel in Houston on February 27, 2010.

The training sessions made available at the District Conferences are an integral part of each Conference. This is the platform our District uses to help keep us informed and strengthen the membership in Optimism. We solicit the topics from you as members. What would you like to learn more about concerning your District, or Optimism in general? This is your District and you most definitely have a voice. As we approach our 2nd Quarter Conference I would ask you to meet with your club members who attended the 1st Quarter Conference. Ask for their comments on the value of attending the training sessions. As an attendee give a report to your club and emphasize the value of the training sessions, the camaraderie with other Optimists, and the quality of the conference.

I believe the University of Optimism is presenting you with timely and well prepared training topics for each Quarterly

Conference. It is our desire to present you with pertinent and current information that will help each Optimist member and Optimist club become a stronger entity within each individual community.

Each topic is discussed with Governor Jack to ensure we present a consensus of training topics that are fresh, pertinent and of genuine value to every member who attends one of the selected classes. For this reason I am confident that the classes we are planning for the 2nd Quarter Conference will be informative and of real value to you.

So I encourage each of you to plan on attending. Each conference is designed with the goal of providing viable topics of genuine value to each member and to each Club. We hope we generate interest in attending the Conference. Come and join 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 Directoir