

Continue the Excellence

I hope all of you had a joyous Holiday Season, and that your New Year has started on a high note. We are now in the second quarter of our Optimist year. Hard to believe the last three months passed so quickly!

Early December saw your Governor and New Community Growth Director Ron Graves attend a Regional Conference in Dallas organized by Vice President Ed Finn and with Optimist International Mark Schriver and President-Elect Danny Rogers and other Governors and others from the Southwestern Region in attendance. January 8, 9, and 10th was a combined International Governor/Governor-Elect Conference in Kissimmee Florida attended by myself and Governor -Elect Hank Hollyday. So with all of the training at these conferences I should be much smarter, right!

One thing I did confirm at these meetings is that one of the best things you can give to a friend is the Optimist experience. Each of us enjoys our Optimist Clubs and the kids and the projects we do. We should share this joy with all we meet. As always,

we need growth. New members and new Clubs are very important to ensure that we continue to help the kids in our areas.

I hope all of you are planning to attend the Second Quarter District Meeting in

Houston on February 26, 27 & 28th. Alvin Marshal has again coordinated the details of this meeting, so we can be assured of a great time. Our Director of Leadership

Development, Al Randez, promises some great training and we will once again have an open Q & A session in the afternoon.

Following dinner Saturday evening Immediate Past Governor Fay Hopkins will have her awards banquet. Since the South Texas District achieved Distinguished status for 2008-2009 there should be quite a few awards. All those Lt. Governors, Club Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers from 2008-2009 who are receiving awards will be recognized. It should be a great time.

Continue the Excellence,

Jack Hopkins, Governor



the **optimist** difference... it's all in our **name!**



NEEDED: A FEW GOOD "RISING STARS"

In last Quarter's Voice, I determined that one of the things I need to do during the rest of this Optimist year and during the 2010-2011 Year is to remind Optimists what we're all about. This is an area in which the Governor has to depend on the Lieutenant Governors and Club Presidents to help with the reminding. Hopefully, by the time the 3rd Quarter District Meeting takes place in early May 2010, at least one candidate for Lieutenant Governor from each Zone will have been selected, and a President for each Club in the District will have been elected.

Each current Lieutenant Governor is encouraged to let me know his or her plans for the 2010-2011 year. Hopefully, many of you will choose to remain in office for another year. However, I know that nothing is forever, and some of you may decide to pass the job on to another. If such is the case, please advise me as soon as possible (and please include the name of a suitable replacement!).

Additionally, there are a number of Director and Chairperson positions to be filled. I have already contacted some of you about your plans. Continuing the successful operation of the District is not a one-man job; it will take all of us working together to keep moving upward in Optimist International.

A major goal of my "Treasure the Children" year is the creation of many more JOOI clubs in South Texas. In spite of the importance of Optimist club support for various sports, probably the best way we can provide direction to youth is through Alpha, Junior Optimist and Octagon clubs, especially in less affluent areas. Consider this when budgets are being prepared for the 2010-2011 Optimist year.

Finally, at a Club meeting not long ago, it occurred to me that sometimes we recite the Optimist Creed from memory without really thinking about what the words mean to each of us. Perhaps each meeting should include a brief discussion of one of the tenets of the Creed to see what it means to Club members. We should all remember that the Optimist Creed is the foundation on which each Club is built.

I hope to see many of you in Houston. I know Governor Jack will have an exciting and fulfilling meeting.

Governor-Elect Hank Hollyday

“New Community Growth”

Someone asked you to become an Optimist member. Someone at some point helped form the club where you are a member. Someone was there in the past. Years from now that someone to others can and should be you. Are you and your club working toward offering the opportunity of a new community club to others? Governor Jack has a district goal of eight (8) new community clubs by September 30, 2010. As of December 31, 2009, our district has not built a new community club but Sam Saenz has a target date of the second quarter meeting in Houston to charter the “Optimist Cub of Cypress”, Thank you Sam.

Each Lt Gov has presented a list of potential club areas. Of the sixteen zones we have identified more than forty areas that are prospects. Our goal is only one new club per every two zones. This is possible. Each new twenty-five member club means at least eight hundred more kids in South Texas will be touched by Optimism.

We do not build clubs for contests; we build clubs because it is the right thing to do for other communities and the children the new club will serve. Building a new club energizes the club that is the new club's sponsor. It energizes the individual members, the district, and all concerned. Building a new club helps overall membership not just because of the new twenty-five members, but also because it generates enthusiasm and pride in a job well done.

We have so many reasons to build new clubs in new communities. The biggest is the kids we will touch and the future results of getting kids involved in Optimist club activities. Remember, you are an Optimist because you were asked and someone at one time took the time to build your club. Duplicate yourself and duplicate the Optimist mission of providing Hope and Positive Vision to kids.

Ron Graves, New Community Growth Director

PAR or Better



The South Texas (West) Qualifier for the 2010 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship will be held June 3rd at Onion Creek Club in Austin. The entry form and info will be available at golf.optimist.org/stx. Please assist and pass this info to all junior golfers, golf courses, your school golf coach, or any interested person. I also hope your club will sponsor a Junior Golfer for this event. For further information: pbjg@swbell.net or 210-655-6620.

Thanks,

Paul Greenwood, District OI JGC Chair

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

"CYBER COMMUNICATION: PROGRESS OR PROBLEM?"

As most of you know, this year's Oratorical competition will feature \$2500, as the grand prize, for each boy and girl winner, and sponsorship opportunities regarding naming rights are still available (e.g., The Ron & Kitty Graves Oratorical Scholarship). There are two avenues an individual or business can pursue, regarding naming rights. Please announce this to all of your club members, and get the word out to all schools, churches and any other youth affiliated organizations interested in participating, or sponsoring this year's contest. Contact me or Ron Graves (gravesronn@cs.com), for more information. All suggested District Deadline Dates, for Club, Zone and Regional Contests - are posted on the STXD website. District winners will be submitted to Optimist International, by June 15, 2010.

I will be holding a training session, at the 2nd Quarter District Meeting in Houston. All Lt. Governors and Club Presidents should try and attend, and, if possible, all Oratorical Chairs. All Club Contests should be held before the end of March, 2010. The Oratorical Competition is the oldest running program for Optimist International, and it is a true expression of heart, to be involved in the development of tomorrow's leaders, and to know that you played a part in their success.

Please contact me at hijodejuan@sbcglobal.net, with questions, or call 210-452-8862 . Specific information regarding OI rules and regulations, can be found at optimist.org, or stxd.org.



Bill Johnson, Oratorical Chair

210-452-8862

Internet Safety

Optimist International has teamed up with I Keep Safe to bring us a new and exciting program to help adults keep up with what their children are doing on the internet. If your club has not ordered their "Free" Internet Safety Program Packet from Optimist International, I encourage you to do so now.

The intent of this program is to educate parents and adults that work with children about the growing threat of Internet predators and online dangers and to provide some tools to help keep children safe while on the internet.

Dangers on the Internet are a very real risk to children, but unlike other threats to children, the issue of online dangers is preventable through education. If children and adults learn early about the dangers online, they will not become

victims of Internet crimes. Young children are increasingly computer and Internet savvy, and therefore, are at a greater risk of becoming a victim of Internet crime.

So order your club package now, and become one of the Optimist Clubs that are helping adults and children become aware of the many Internet dangers and how they can avoid them.

If you should have any questions or would like some help with the program, please let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Second Quarter District Meeting in Houston.

Fay Hopkins, Internet Safety Chairperson

2009-2010 Essay Contest

\$2,500 Scholarship

There is still time to begin your Club's Essay Contest. If your Club does not currently have an Essay Contest you will want to **start now**. Your club needs only one member to chair the contest. The chairperson will need three judges. At the Club level, the judges can be Optimist Club members or non-members.

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 Winner Receives a \$2,500 Scholarship

The rules and the needed forms can be found on the South Texas District web site. Go to www.stxd.org and under PRO-GRAMS click "Essay Contest".

Greg Lester, District Essay Chair





SOUTH TEXAS DISTRICT
 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
 SECOND QUARTER DISTRICT MEETING
 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
 HOUSTON, TEXAS
 FEBRUARY 26-28, 2010



Friday—February 26

Hello Party	6:00 pm—8:00 pm
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Saturday—February 27

Breakfast	At your leisure
Registration	8:00 am—4:00 pm
Executive Board Meeting	8:00 am—9:30 am
Training—Oratorical Contest Bill Johnson	10:00 am—10:45 am
Training—New Member Orientation Al Randez	10:00 am—10:45 am
Training—Club Scrapbooks Margaret Dockery	11:00am -11:45 am
Training—Sec’y/Treasurer Review Kathy Woodruff	11:00 am—11:45 am
Lunch	12:00 pm—1:30 pm
Open Discussion Session	2:00 pm—?????
Social	6:00 pm—7:00 pm
Awards Banquet	7:00 pm—9:00 pm
Entertainment	9:00 pm—???

Sunday—February 28

Breakfast	8:00 am—9:00 am
General Session—Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 am—11:30 am

South Texas District
Optimist International
Governor Jack Hopkins
4310 Putting Green
San Antonio, TX 78217

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Optimist International:
<http://www.optimist.org>
South Texas District:
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 HAPPY TO PERMIT THE PRESENCE OF TROUBLE.

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.