



# MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

## GO BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES II

As we prepare to embark on our journey, we need to acknowledge the great success that Governor Carol has had this past year. We will continue the momentum that has been passed on to us and keep our beloved South Texas District on top of Optimist International.

We started the year in the right direction as 8 out of 10 Lt. Governors attended the Houston training organize by our Leadership Development Chair, Ed Finn who was assisted by our Optimist International, President Jim Kondrasuk and other Committee Chairs. They are committed and prepared to assist the key persons in each club and will begin this process by contacting Club Presidents and completing the ACPC.

We have provided incentives with the purpose of gaining new members that will serve more youth in our communities. (The incentives will be found in all the Quarterly Voices.) These new members will also bring new ideas and provide assistance to the leadership of the clubs. But first I ask that we strengthen our existing clubs and we can start with membership retention. This can be accomplished by getting the members involved in club activities.

Optimist International President-Elect Nick Prillman's approach to increasing memberships is by promoting New Optimist Wanted (NOW) events. He is requesting that each District

participate in this program. I'm asking that our district hold 20 NOW events which is a third of the clubs in our District.

But for now, let's start our journey by joining other members in our District at our First District Meeting in San Antonio, Texas where the members of Zone 4 will be asked to assist with the hospitality suite that originally was going to be hosted by the Northwest Optimist Club of Waco, Texas. Even though we are shifting gears we want to thank Ken Young, Bobby Campos and Bill McNair for their hard work in the planning The Northwest Waco has indicated that their members will join us in San Antonio. We will complete our optimist business by noon on Saturday to

allow our members to enjoy the many places to see in San Antonio and then return at night to our banquet with a key note speaker. First, we will begin our weekend on Friday in the hospitality room and as well as in the lobby area as Embassy Suites hotel provides daily happy hours 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Quoting Casey Stengel, "Getting good players is easy, getting them to work together is the hard part." So, let's have fun this year, and don't take ourselves seriously and never forget that our members are volunteers that they only want to Bring Out the Best in Kids!

Gil Ortiz, Governor,  
South Texas District



## **GO BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES II CLUB INCENTIVES 2017-2018**

**First Optimist Member to sponsor (1) new member in each zone**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will receive a District Pin and presented a Certificate**

**First Optimist Member to sponsor (3) new members in each quarter**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will receive District Pin, a Certificate and a GBB golf shirt**

**First Optimist Member to sponsor (5) new members in a quarter**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will received District Pin, a Certificate, a GBB golf shirt  
Free Registration at next district meeting**

**One Builder of Excellence that expands the district with a new club by December 30, 2017**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will received a District Pin, A Certificate, a GBB golf shirt  
Free Registration at next District Meeting  
Free Lodging for one Night at next District Meeting**

**One Builder of Excellence that expands the District with a new club by 3/30/2018**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will received a District Pin a Certificate, a GBB golf shirt  
Free Registration at next District Meeting  
Free Lodging for one Night at Next District Meeting**

**One Builder of Excellence that expand the District with a new club by June 30, 2018**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will received a District Pin, a Certificate, a GBB golf shirt  
Free Registration at Next District Meeting  
Free Lodging for one Night at Next District Meeting**

**One Builder of Excellence that expand the District with a new club by September 30, 2018**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will received a District Pin, a Certificate, a GBB golf shirt  
Free Registration at next District Meeting  
Free Lodging for one Night at Next District Meeting**

**The President of any Club that starts a New JOOI Club**

**Will become a member of the Go Beyond the Boundaries Club  
Will received a District Pin, a Certificate and GBB golf shirt**



**Optimist**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**South Texas District**

Dear Optimists,

At the 4th Quarter Convention I was nominated and elected as your Governor-Elect 2017-2018. I am very proud to have this position. I am looking for positions to be filled for my year 2018-2019. Please let me know if you are interested. I am also looking for clubs to help out with the quarterly meetings. I will be working with Gil during his year in office. There are many options planned. Please ask your club to participate in the meetings. There are many items to be shared with your club. The last meeting was well planned. One item I challenged the clubs present was get out and form an Education club by September 30, 2017. You will need 15 people in Education or more to start a club. They will need to pay \$15 each for the first year. I plan to start one. Let's help Carol finish her year with a royal finish. We can help Gil in October. Hope to see everyone in San Antonio in October.

Beverly Oaks

Governor-Elect – 2017-2018



## Why should I care about Optimist International Foundation (OIF)?

If you have asked yourself this question then you are not alone. With less than 5% of the members donating to OIF, obviously many do not see the point or do not understand what the foundation is or its purposes? So before I discuss all the ways you and your club can donate to the foundation, let me clear up some of the mystery.

One, the dues you pay does not go to the foundation. They go toward the insurance that covers you during projects and events and the administrative costs of running a nonprofit. Two, the foundation is a way for individuals and clubs to make a charitable donation to support the many projects such as the Worldwide Oratorical Contest and the district essay contests. The scholarship money presented at the district level for these contests and the regional money presented at the Worldwide Oratorical Contest come from OIF. In addition, the OIF presents grants each year to selected clubs to carry out a new project. South Texas clubs were the recipients of three of these grants this year. One of our clubs also received an award from OIF as a winner of one of the Reel to Reel contests.

So how can you donate? There are several options – Dime-A-Day, Women's Philanthropy Council, Presidents Club, and Christian D. Larson Partners are some of the ways an individual can donate. Clubs can also make a donation to the foundation for any amount (a requirement for Honor Club) but a donation of \$365.00 earns the club a banner patch. Go to [www.oifoundation.org](http://www.oifoundation.org) for additional information and to download the forms. If you have difficulty accessing the site or want me to send you a hard copy of the forms, email me at [cahhanc@aol.com](mailto:cahhanc@aol.com). At the very least don't you owe it to the youth we serve to be a Dime-A-Day member?

Carol Hodges  
District Foundation Representative

### 2017-2018 Club Secretary/Treasurer

Now is a good time to download your Club Roster from <http://www.optimistleaders.org/> and make sure that the information is correct for every Club member. Remember that your Club President as well as yourself will receive information from Optimist International throughout the year by email, including Optimist International Invoices, so be sure your information is correct. Also the Club Foundation Representative will receive information from Optimist International Foundation. It is a good idea to login to <http://www.optimistmail.org/> where under the options tab you can forward all Optimist mail to your normal email account.

If you need any help with this or other issues throughout the year, let me know.

Jack Hopkins  
2017-2018 STxD Secretary/Treasurer



### CLUB FITNESS - Promoting Strength and Stability through TEAMWORK

**PURPOSE:** Aid and assist new and existing clubs; connect clubs and resources; build strength and stability within clubs and the district.

**Role of the District Club Fitness Advisor:** Create a Club Fitness (CF) Team; Communicate with CF Team regularly; Work with New Club Building and membership and Leadership Development Chair and Lt. Governor's; track club progress toward HONOR CLUB status.

Help clubs RENEW -REFRESH- REVITALIZE (The 3 -R Program).

Renew membership and leadership; Refresh clubs and help with an action plan; and, Revitalize mission and goals of the clubs.

Continue to develop Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) and Professional Development Program (PDP) programs within clubs and district.

The district Club Fitness Advisor is a mentor to the district and clubs, a trouble-shooter, a coach and a problem solver. Please feel free to call upon me during the 2017-18 Optimist year to help move your club forward and upward to exceed expectations and goals.

My phone# is 210-860-2323 and my email is [gravesronn@yahoo.com](mailto:gravesronn@yahoo.com)

I look forward to working with you and Governor Gil in 2017-18 to make this the best year ever for you and your club, zone and our district.

Ron Graves  
District Club Fitness Advisor

## Essay Contest 2017 – 2018

### 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 \$2,500 scholarship. Your Club needs only one member to participate but several members can participate 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 Club 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 may award medallions to their winners. These are optional and cost about \$20.00.
- Other awards are permitted at the Club level. 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 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 to attend. They may join your club.

#### Summary of Key Items

- The official topic for 2017-2018 is "**Can Society Function Without Respect?**"
- The essay contest is open to students under age 18 as of October 1, 2017.
- 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, 2018.**

For more information go to [www.stxd.org](http://www.stxd.org) and under PROGRAMS click Scholarship Contests then see "Essay Contest".

Hello South Texas Optimist!

I am very happy to be serving you this year as your Public Relations Chairman.

Effective Public Relations can benefit your club by influencing people to attend your club events; informing the community about your events; influencing a potential member to join your club; increase corporate sponsorships; and builds name recognition of your club.

Internal Public Relations involves making members aware of everything that is happening in your club and making sure that everyone is aware the events, and of individual members' involvement. External Public Relations involves making the members of the community aware of club activities and the advantages of joining. Currently our greatest source for promotion is through social media. As you post information about your club, keep it upbeat and positive. Post Photos that will help tell the whole story. Please make sure and brag on your club's activities by sharing your club's post on the South Texas Optimist site.

#### GO BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES,

Karen Kovar  
PR Chairman

**What is most important?**

- a) Keeping the Optimist member that you currently have in your club from leaving?
- b) Getting a new person to join your Optimist club?
- c) Starting an Optimist club within your club?
- d) Starting a new Optimist club where you live or just down the road a ways?

Thank your lucky stars that you are an Optimist and as you walk (sometimes run) through life you are impacting the lives of people, many of which are children. What a wonderful way to feel at the close of a day when you are exhausted but you are confident that you have contributed to the betterment of another young person. So how do we increase the amount of help given to young people? I believe that for each additional Optimist in our organization we multiply the effect on our society.

So how is this done?

I believe that we must all strive to insure that each member of our club feels welcome and has some responsibility as a club member.

I also believe that each enthusiastic member is a lot more likely to invite others to become part of a team they enjoy and are excited about.

As your club diversifies into different areas of community actives, there is an opportunity to add members that are into that segment of concern. By adding as many as 15 members to help with this effort, it is possible to call them a club within a club. Aside from the benefit of the additional members it will earn the club accolades as forming a club.

There is also the endeavor of starting a new club in the neighbor not too far from where you are. It can be of course way down the road but it is usually easier to start something close because of the logistics involved. I look forward to working with all Lt Governors and many club presidents throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio October 14, 15, 16, 2017

Jerry Eschberger, Chair District Growth  
[ajeschberger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ajeschberger@sbcglobal.net) or 512-251-9566 or 512-923-3930

**Welcome to another New Year!**

Another new year is here for the South Texas District. We actually got the year underway with our convention held in Houston. It was great to see so many enthusiastic Optimist. Enthused to both finish Governor Carol's year with a bang and to carry that enthusiasm into Governor Gil's year.

We were pleased to have the President of Optimist International, Jim Kondrasuk, as our official representative. You may recall that when Jim was elected President he created the new International Recognition Program that would be in place for five years and this will be the second year. This program spells out what it takes to be an Honor club as well as what it takes to be a Distinguished club. I point this out as great emphasis was place on these two designation during the Lt. Governor Elect, President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer Elect training at convention, by both President Jim and the training team.

Please know that the Leadership Development team stands ready to assist you in becoming an Honor or Distinguished club. We welcome your suggestions, comments and request as we prepare programs for this Optimist year. Let me hear from you by email at [rafterf@hctc.net](mailto:rafterf@hctc.net) or by regular mail at 10548 West U S Hwy 290, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.

The entire District team looks forward to seeing you on October 13-15, 2017, at the Embassy Suites-Airport in San Antonio, TX. "See ya there"

Ed Finn  
Leadership Development

## South Texas District First Quarter Meeting, October 13-15, 2017

Embassy Suites-Airport, San Antonio, TX

We are pleased to announce that the First District meeting will take place in the beautiful city of San Antonio on October 13, 14, & 15, 2017. *The District conference is going to be a fun filled weekend with a number of updates, training workshops, and fellowship with Optimists all over South Texas. Don't delay! Get your registration in today!*

### Friday, October 13

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Registration

6:30 p.m. until ??? Hello Party in Gil's Suite  
*(also, the hotel has reserved two bays for our use by the bar during happy hour)*

### Saturday, October 14

6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration

9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Training

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Buffet Lunch in the Atrium

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Social hour in the bar

7:00 p.m. - ??? Banquet

### Sunday, October 15

6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. General Session

South Texas District  
Optimist International  
Governor Gil Ortiz  
1206 Acanthus Street  
Pflugerville, TX 78660-2259

## ***ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB***

Optimist International:  
<http://www.optimist.org>  
South Texas District:  
<http://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**



### **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.