



South Texas District
Optimist International
Volume 10, Number 2

Governor Carol Hodges
Secretary/Treasurer Marcey Casey
January-February 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Wow – y'all are blowing me away! The district is off to an incredible start and OI sure has noticed. There are several great incentives going on as I write and I hope you are taking advantage of them. One that just showed up in my email is that Benny Ellerbe, Executive Director for OI, will provide a Road Sign for any club which adds 10 members to their existing club. Second quarter meeting promises to provide great training just like first quarter. We will also be recognizing individuals and clubs for the 2015-16 year at the dinner Saturday night.

The theme that evening is Mardi Gras so get out your purple, green, and gold or carnival attire. I am working on entertainment and yes there will be beads! We will also have our Southwest Region Vice President Venus Sanford with us throughout the weekend. She has never been to San Antonio so we want to make her feel welcome!

But what I want to share right now is information from a recent webinar provided by OI on the Honor Club Tracking. This is the 'Year of the Honor Club' as President Jim Kondrasuk has announced. I want to make sure each club is working toward that status. And yes I know it's not about the "Atta Boy/Girl" awards. But it is about getting the message out about what a great organization Optimist International is! This ties in with the theme from the 1st quarter meeting on marketing your club. With more

people hearing about us and wanting to get involved, we can serve more youth! Those reports at the end of year such as President's Pride also help Optimist International know how we are doing as an organization and gives them statistics to share with potential donors.

Go to

www.optimistleaders.org to find the tracking form. It is also available for viewing on www.optimistorg. There are ones for club, Lt. Governor, and Governor. The one I want to focus on is the one for club. Every club should be aiming for a net growth of +3 or more and planning a NOW event for no later than 3rd quarter. Every club should be

working on projects, either ones sponsored by OI or personalized for your community. Get a Club Foundation representative and increase the number of members at the Dime-A-Day level or higher. Certain reports are due at specific times – the Club Officer elect Report by 20 May and the President's Pride report mentioned earlier by 30 September. Tied in with the Pride report is the importance of recognizing a club or community member each year. OI provides a great certificate suitable for framing. And be sure to have club officers or designees attending the district meetings. The tracking form provides areas to list goals and results for all of these items.

Stay Optimist Strong!

Carol Hodges
Governor, South Texas District



GO BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES II

By the time, we meet in San Antonio for the 2nd Quarter Meeting we will have seven months remaining in Governor Carol's year of "Optimist Strong". Let us congratulate her for an excellent past five months as she has carried the banner of the South Texas District to greater heights and our beloved STxD is within the top five Districts in all of Optimist International.

We will have accomplished the task of Going Beyond the Boundaries by TEAMWORK. We have recruited some Lt. Governors and still are looking for able-bodied Optimists to fill other positions. Remember what Casey Stengel said, "Getting good players is easy, getting them to play together is the hard part."

We will begin our journey to the home of Baylor Bears or Waco. Then we will journey to Aggieland and have our 2nd Quarter meeting in College Station. We will then prepare for our Oratorical in the home of the Alamo. The 4th Quarter meeting is still in limbo and will be announced in the 3rd Quarter meeting.

For now we must prepare the Zones for 2017 and 2018. We will have proposed no new changes with the exception that we will combine Zones 2 & Zones 3 into one. Therefore, there will be ten (10) zones in the District. Any new clubs will remain in the zones where the sponsoring club is located. Please find the list of Zones for 2017-2018 on the STxD website at <http://www.stxd.org/clubsbyzone.html>

For now let's concentrate on Governor Carol year and try to promote our beloved organization by having NOW programs or by simply ASKING perspective members to join the greatest organization in the world, Optimist International.

Always remember that we are volunteers, so let's go out and have some fun and let's not take ourselves seriously as we try to "BRING OUT THE BEST IN KIDS".

Gil Ortiz, Governor Elect – 2017-2018

CLUB FITNESS ADVISOR - Who We Are and What We Do

Communication with the Chairs of the Membership, New Club Building, Leadership Development, Lt. Governors and most important with the Governor is essential to teamwork for the Club Fitness Advisor (CFA).

Last quarter, we provided guidelines to follow for the months of October 2016 thru January 2017. We also encouraged each club to nominate a member to be a CFA and to work closely with the Lt. Governor of the zone. The following is a monthly check list for the next few months:

February 2017 – 1) Remind clubs about Scholarships Contest Deadlines; 2) Contact Awards & Achievements Chair to identify and work with clubs who are on track for "Honor" or "Distinguished" status and encourage them; and 3) Identify and mentor replacements for Club Fitness Advisor for next year.

March 2017 – 1) Contact District-Secretary to identify clubs that could be "at risk" when they are over 30 days late on dues payments; 2) Develop and implement an action plan that will help strength and retain clubs; and 3) Contact New Club Building Chair to begin conversations regarding new clubs this administrative year.

April 2017 – 1) Prepare for the upcoming year's Club President & Club Sec-Trea by May 20th and enter them in www.optimistleaders.org; 2) Ensure follow up/recognition for any Oratorical or Essay Club/District Winners; 3) Help identify future leaders for the upcoming year; and 4) Encourage current leaders and members who are looking into future District positions to attend 3rd Qtr conference and /or International Convention for training.

Gil Ortiz, District Fitness Club Chair



CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN

This program of the South Texas District has been of great use to families in the last Optimist Year. We had 3 requests from club members to financially assist families in their communities who have children being treated for cancer. These requests have paid electric bills, paid rent, paid for stays at Ronald McDonald House. All of this assistance is made possible by your contributions to the Childhood Cancer Campaign Fund. After these distributions, the fund had sufficient money for the Executive Committee to approve the donation of \$250 to each of three Texas Research Centers (Texas Children's Hospital, Greehey Children's Cancer Research Institute, and Driscoll Children's Hospital) to further the chances of ending childhood cancer. Thank you to every individual and club who have contributed to the Fund last year. Please continue your generosity so that we may assist more families and research centers again this Optimist year.

Kathy Woodruff, CCC Chair

Let's Go Grow...

As we begin this new calendar year, it is also time to begin to focus on sharing our Optimist organization. Sharing the experiences that we cherish, value and that warms our hearts. I know that you can all reflect on your recent holiday projects where you helped put those smiles on all those little faces—let's allow and encourage others to be a part of these awesome experiences.

In order for your club and our District to be successful, we must **ALL Grow Our Clubs**. Growth includes membership recruitment, member retention, having a NOW (New Optimist Welcome) event, and starting a new Club. Membership recruiting and retention is the foundation to the health and growth of your club. New members bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and commitment to your club. Retention is necessary to keep current members involved, active and helping to serve the kids.

I am proud to let you all know that at the time of this writing, the **South Texas District** is **+46 members**, and ranked **#3 in Optimist International**. We could not have reached this milestone without your help. **Special Kudos to the following clubs:** Austin, Austin Greater Southwest, Bellaire, Bryan College Station, Bulverde, Dickinson, Fort Sam Houston, Hill Country, Houston Aldine Noon, Huntsville, Metrocom Live Oak, Nederland Mid County, North Hays County, Pasadena, South Austin, and Town and Country Round Rock who are currently in growth.

I am also thrilled and excited to let you know that the following seven **Lt. Governors are also in growth:** **Zone 2** Lt Governor Jerry Eschberger, **Zone 3** Lt. Governor Bill Palmer, **Zone 4** Lt Governor Arturo Puentes, **Zone 5** Lt. Governor, Woody Woodruff, **Zone 7** Lt. Governor Joe Smith, **Zone 9** Lt. Governor John Schneider and **Zone 10** Lt. Governor Robert Melia. **Thank you to all for sharing the Optimist Experience!**

To help you and your club grow, Governor Carol has implemented some **Membership Growth Incentives**. Individuals who recruit 5 new members will receive an Optimist Strong Travel Mug.

For Clubs that are +10 (net) quarterly, will receive a Pizza Party for either First Responders or a youth organization in their community (\$50.00 Value)

For Clubs that extend the hand of Optimist by building a new club, they will receive a Pizza Party for either First Responders or a youth organization in their community (\$50.00 Value) and a 2' x 4' Vinyl Optimist Strong Recruitment Banner.

Let's not keep the best kept secret to ourselves any longer. **Let's make a commitment to continue to GROW**. Together, we can do it! We can make your club healthier and stronger and we can increase your impact on Bringing Out the Best in Kids! I look forward to hearing from you and working with your club.

PROUD TO BE....OPTIMIST STRONG IN SOUTH TEXAS!

Karen Kovar, Growth Chairman
karenkovar@gmail.com / 832-724-5956

PGI & THE NEW PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



OOPS, did I catch you napping? I only have a few members who have sent me paper work on PGI.

I will need to get these to OI for verification before the February District Meeting. Check over your passbook and see if you can check off some of the levels you have missed or forgotten about. Better yet, see if you can do some of them before Feb., maybe the ones that require a new member and watch how your Club grows.

You may e-mail the form to me after you fill it out@ optimisticcharlie@yahoo.com or mail to: Charlotte Woisin, 115 Willow Creek, Floresville, Texas 78114.

And don't forget about PDP. This is a new program and will take some time to understand. OI is still tweaking and possibly revising some of the steps. Be patient; many great things happen because of being patient. At the last District Meeting we introduced the steps to climbing the ladder and how they will help to serve as training for the professional world or your own self- improvement.

If you know of any young people or students who may need or want this training contact me and enlist them as an **OPTIMIST**. This will be a great training tool that we as Optimists can offer. Who will be the 1st to enroll?

OIF

Assume all made it through the Christmas season on a high note. Just a quick reminder to all great Optimists that we need many more members of the **Dime-A-Day**. I am offering a free Dime-A-Day for any club bringing in five new members of the Dime-A-Day program while at the 2nd quarter conference.

You must attend the conference and bring the name and address of the recipient of the free membership. I will take care of the rest. Remember the donation is tax deductible. And don't forget the 365 patch as this is a great way to check off one of the requirements for Honor Club.

John Blackwell, DFR

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Hello Optimist family! I wanted to share information about CCDHH. As everyone knows this contest brings so much confidence and new opportunities to our students' lives. Please reach out to local high schools and the deaf & hard of hearing community in your area. Then make sure to send me the following information on your club's competitors by March 24, 2017: the application (which includes a doctor's signature), a printed copy of their speech, an audiogram completed no longer than 24 months prior to contest in April, and the \$15.00 district fee. If your club has three or more students wanting to compete, then you will need to hold a club contest to determine who will advance to the district level. The district fee is only for the student advancing to the STxD contest on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the 3rd quarter meeting in Corpus Christi. My contact information is amberlydia@gmail.com if you need more details. Thank you to everyone who is participating and see you in April.

Amberly Diaz





Dear Fellow Optimists,

The focus of our training on Saturday, February 25 will be learning about fundraising tools, resources and ideas for Optimist Clubs.

A few highlights of the training will be:

“The Essential Elements of Fundraising” - Presented by Lisa Brunsvold, Vice President, San Antonio Area Foundation

“Four Optimist Clubs Share Successful Fundraisers - Fredericksburg’s Motorcycle Rally, Night in Alamo Heights, Dickenson's Golf Outing and Conroe’s Cajun Festival”

“How to Write a Grant for your Club Writing” - Presented by Stacy Smith & Judy Hoya, Aldine Optimist Club

“Optimist International Foundation (OIF) Grants Available to your Club”, Ed Finn, Past OIF President

“On-Line Fundraising Resources Available to your Club” - Dyhanara Rios, Optimist Club of San Antonio.

“How to Produce a Club Video for the OIF Reel to Reel Video Contest” - Mike Dudas, Galveston Noon Optimist Club

We will also be honored to have our Southwest Region Vice President, Venus Sanford, in attendance. Venus will share updates from Optimist International (OI) with us during the South Texas District Business Meeting on Saturday afternoon.

Saturday evening will be filled with fun and celebration as Immediate Past Governor John Blackwell recognizes his Leadership Team and South Texas Clubs for their achievements during the 2015-16 Optimist year.

We will kick the weekend off with a “Hospitality Party” on Friday evening at 6:30. There will be good eats and time for fun and fellowship! Please join us in San Antonio!

Yours in Optimism,

Jan Oord Graves, Chair, Leadership Development
Leadership Development

ORATORICAL CONTEST

This year’s District Oratorical Contest is Sat, April 29, 2017, at the District quarterly meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. So, all Zone contests need to be completed before the end of April and club contests need to be held accordingly. All Lt. Governors or their designated Zone Oratorical chair should contact all clubs and determine which clubs will send participants to the next level. Then, it can be determined if individual zones or combined zones need to have a contest and when.

As your district chairman, I am happy to help in any way I can. Additionally, clubs who do not want to organize and put on a full club Oratorical Contest can still participate by just sponsoring a student to represent their club in the Zone contest. Furthermore, as requests to participate come to OI or to the District, I will contact the nearest club and ask you to sponsor that student or include him or her in your club contest. Please be open to all these options, as this is one of the oldest, best, and most significant programs that we, as Optimists, have available for the students in our communities.

New This Year

This year, the District and Zone Oratorical Contests will be single, mixed gender contests in which boys and girls compete together in the one contest. So, while clubs can hold boy and girl contest only one first place student (either a boy or girl) can move on to the Zone contest.

At the District level, this gives us the opportunity to reward 3 students with college scholarships. The District first place student will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and will represent our District in the Regional contest in St. Louis, on June 15, 2017, with an opportunity for more scholarship money and advancement into the International contest the next day. Second and third place District winners, on April 29, will receive \$1,500 and \$1,000 scholarships, respectively.

For details on the contest and all the rules, go to this website <http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships4.cfm> or our District site at www.stxd.org and click on the “program” tab.

And stay tuned for a very attractive fundraiser to assist in sending the district winner to St Louis!

Judy Karonika, District Oratorical Contest Chair

South Texas District Second Quarter Meeting, February 24-26, 2017

Doubletree Downtown, San Antonio, TX

We are pleased to announce that the Second District meeting will take place in San Antonio on February 24, 25, & 26, 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, February 24

6:00 p.m. - Registration

6:30 p.m. - Hospitality Party

Saturday, February 25

8:00 a.m. - Registration & EXPO

8:30 a.m. - First Timers Orientation

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Group Training:

1. Successful Fundraising for your Club - Lisa Brunsvold, San Antonio Area Foundation,
2. Vice President, Development & Donor Services
3. Successful Fundraisers: 4 Clubs share their Fundraisers -Motorcycle Rally - Fredericksburg Optimist Club, Night in Alamo Heights - Alamo Heights Optimist Club, Golf Outing - Dickenson Optimist Club, Conroe Cajun Festival - Conroe Optimist Club

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. - Group Training:

1. Grant Writing - Stacy Smith & Judy Hoya, Aldine Optimist Club
2. Optimist International Foundation (OIF) Grant Programs - Ed Finn, Immediate Past President OIF
3. On-Line Fundraising Resources - Dyhanara Rios, Optimist Club of San Antonio

12:00 - 1:45 p.m. - Lunch and Program:

1. News and Updates from Optimist International - Venus Sanford, Vice President of Southwest Region
2. OIF Auction - John Blackwell, District OIF Representative

2:00 p.m. - Creating a Club Video for the OIF Reel to Reel Contest - Mike Dudas, Galveston Noon Optimist Club

2:30 p.m. - South Texas District Business Session

6:30 p.m. - STX District 2015-16 Awards Banquet

Sunday, February 26

8:30 - 9:15 - Chat with Governor Carol Hodges

South Texas District
Optimist International
Governor Carol Hodges
61 Lebrun Court
Galveston, TX 77551-1565

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.

