



# Nebraska District Optimists



July 2009

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www.nebraskaoptimists.org

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Governor Ardis Moody

## Governor's Message

### Optimist Checklist

- Register for the August 7-9 Convention and book your room.
- Work on your Personal Growth and Involvement advancement.
- Review the proposed policy changes and send comments or concerns to the committee.
- Make copies of the District Bulletin and share them with members who do not have Internet access.
- Get a group together and visit another club.
- Invite someone to visit your club.
- Help line up a guest speaker or great program for your club.
- Ask about your club's A&A reports and points.
- Ask if your club's Officer-elect report has been sent in.

(Governor's Message continued on page 2)

## Looking Ahead to 2009-2010

Mark Claussen  
2008-09 Governor-elect

As we enter the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of the current Optimist year, I want to give you a quick update on preparations for 2009-2010. Let me say that I am looking forward to a GREAT year and BIG things in the Nebraska District as we explore how we are "Paying IT Forward" everyday as Optimists!

Here's an update on dates/locations for next year's conferences and convention:

**October 31/November 1**  
Norfolk

**January 30 - 31**  
Omaha

**April 10-11**  
Kearney

(Please note the date change)  
We are planning to hold the CCDHH & Oratorical competitions as well as hear from our Essay winner at this conference!

**August 6-8**  
South Sioux City

We will continue a focus on what Optimists do best – that is, "Bring Out the Best in Kids," while doing the necessary business to run the Nebraska District at our conferences. Growth in terms of new clubs, membership and personal growth will be a part of each conference along with a bit of fun and fellowship!

There will be great learning opportunities for District and Club officers for 2009-2010 as well as all Optimists when we gather for the 2009 Convention in Lincoln the first week of August. Former OI President Michel Listenberger and Sam Kieffer, a Vice President for 2009-2010, will be our featured trainers along with the district's Leadership Development Committee!

(continued on page 2, middle column)

## Important Optimist Dates

### July

- 8th - 11th Optimist International Convention, Kissimmee, FL
- 10th 3rd Quarter A&A Reports due to Sharon Wheaton
- 17th Gretna Days Pork BBQ, Gretna Optimist Club, City Park

### August

- 7th Golf Scramble for the OI Foundation, HiMark Golf Course, Lincoln
- 7th Duck Pluck at Lincoln Children's Zoo, Lincoln West Optimist Club and a Picnic in the Park host by the five Lincoln Optimist Clubs
- 7th - 9th Nebraska District Convention, Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln

(Calendar continued on page 2)

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### Governor Ardis Says....



Please Ride!

This is it! The ride we've been looking forward to since last October! The 2009 Convention is almost here!

Motorcycles are welcomed, encouraged, invited, and rewarded! There will be special motorcycle parking outside the convention center and a "Blessing of the Bikes" will take place. Let's show Nebraska what "Full Throttle" looks like. Roll the throttle! Ride to Lincoln and "Give me Five for the Kids!"

#### "Bring Your Comfy Clothes and Comfy Shoes"

On Saturday afternoon during our convention, we will be going out to the convention center parking lot to have fun with kids at a Bike Rodeo for our youth service project.

#### "A&A Reports Are Available"

The A&A Reports have been revised and are available on the website for all four quarters. "We're not big on deadlines, so you're invited to complete them anytime." The reports let us know what your club has been doing.

#### "Help! Lots of Officer-elect Reports Aren't In Yet!"

Please get your officers elected and registered for the convention and training. "You can't imagine how helpful it is for club officers to meet and work with those from other clubs and our great OI Certified Trainers." Don't let them miss this opportunity. "Let us know who they are and get them to Lincoln. We can't wait to meet them."

#### "A District Leadership Retreat Is Scheduled"

Governor-elect Mark Claussen and Governor Ardis Moody are planning a one-day retreat for the Lt. Governors, Committee Chairs and other members of both executive teams on Sunday, September 20. The meeting will provide for goal setting, sharing of ideas, and planning for the future of our district. More details will be available soon. Be watching for them!

The following Optimists have stepped up to serve as your Lt. Governors for 2009-2010:

- Zone 1 > Dick Raasch (Omaha Breakfast)
- Zone 2 > Open
- Zone 3 > Gary Nissen (South Sioux City)
- Zone 4 > Open
- Zone 5 > Marv Shimmel (Auburn)
- Zone 6 > Mary Bisbee (Lincoln)
- Zone 7 > Tina Oswald (Aurora)
- Zone 8 > Ed Sheen (Minden)
- Zone 9 > Open

Thanks to everyone who has already agreed to play a leadership role in the coming year. I will continue seeking interested and qualified Optimists to serve in these as well as a handful of district chair positions yet to be filled. I would welcome anyone letting me know about a particular interest they might have!

My schedule is already beginning to fill up as I learn about opportunities the Nebraska District Governor typically participates in and I'm sure there will be more (learning and opportunities). Please keep in mind, that I am a full-time employee of the Norfolk Public Schools and JOOI advisor and have obligations related to both. I will do my best to be where and when I can, but these (and certain family commitments) will take my time as well. What I'm saying is it's NEVER TOO EARLY to let me know of something you'd like me to participate in!

Thanks for this opportunity to serve. Watch for updates!

Governor-elect Mark

### Golf for the Foundation

A Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, August 7, at HiMark Golf Course. The scramble is a fundraiser for the OI Foundation. The shotgun start is set for 12:30 p.m. and the cost for the event will be \$55. Contact Bob Wriedt if you want to join in the golfing fun. The golf course is located at 8901 Augusta Drive (1/2 mile south of 84th and Pioneers) in Lincoln.

- Encourage your club's officers to sign up for training at District Convention.
- Invite someone to join your club.
- Participate in a club fundraiser or activity.
- Ask your Lt. Governor to visit your club.
- Invite the Governor or other district leader to visit your club.
- Offer to chair a committee or take responsibility for an activity
- Suggest goals and new ideas for your club or district for 2009-2010.
- Continue to make the creed a part of your everyday life.
- Work with Optimists everywhere to keep "bringing out the best in kids."
- Have fun!

Governor Ardis

### September

18th 17th Annual Don McVaney Golf Scramble, Omaha Optimist Club, Eagle Hills Golf Course Papillion

20th District Leadership Retreat

### October

4th District Tri-Star Football and NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Competitions, Able Stadium, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln

17th Optimist in Action Day

31 - Nov 1st First Quarter Conference of 2009-2010 year, Norfolk

For Fantastic Fun, Fellowship, and a lot of Optimism, Attend the District Convention August 7-9 Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln

## How Full Is Your Sturgis Stash Jar?

OI Foundation Rep Bob Wriedt reminds all clubs that they need to bring their jars, filled with cash for the OI Foundation, to the district convention. The cash in each jar will count toward that respective club's donation. The jar should be decorated since the jars will be judged and prizes will be awarded. If your club will not have a representative at the convention, contact your Lt. Governor.

The Nebraska District is down in donations to the Foundation. All members are asked to remember that the funds we send to the foundation come back to the Nebraska District in the form of scholarship money. During this current year, four Nebraska youth received scholarships for a total of \$5,150. Currently, the club donations are averaging less than \$3 per member.

The OI Foundation scholarship funds are being increased next year to \$2,500. That equates to \$10,000 in scholarships for Nebraska youth next year! We need to do our part and help the Optimist Foundation fund those scholarships.

## Optimist International Convention News

As of June 16th, help was needed at the Florida convention with the Advance Registration area. If you are interested in working a two-hour shift, contact Sharon. Parton@optimist.org. She says, "It's a lot of fun and a great way to meet new Optimists."

### For Men's Eyes Only!

If a tuxedo is needed for the President's Banquet, The Men's Wearhouse will be offering tuxedo rental, with all the accessories, for \$71.35. The tux will be delivered for pick up at Celebrity Services in the Gaylord Palms main lobby.

The fitting can be done at any The Men's Wearhouse store, or have measurements taken at a professional tuxedo store. Call or email measurements to Edward V. Mouzon at The Men's Wearhouse, Kissimmee, FL; 407-343-7551; or evm7@tmw.com.

If ordering a tux, please reference group number 2273886. Orders must be placed by July 1st.

## Proposed Policy Revisions

On pages 7-9 are the proposed policy revisions that will be voted on at the district convention. The proposed changes are also posted on the district website, [www.nebraskaoptimists.org](http://www.nebraskaoptimists.org). Please share, discuss, and consider these proposed revisions with your club members.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the committee members. The committee members are: Gaylea Sturgis, Ardis Moody, Del Salmen, and Bob Grundman. Their telephone numbers and addresses are in the District Directory.

## Nebraska Has Five More Certified Club Builders!

Al Penner, Ron Shilling, Bruce Greenwood, Governor-Elect Mark Claussen, and Governor Ardis Moody completed the Certified Club Builders Training in Denver. The training involved 10 to 12 hours of classroom work; followed by some "on the job" training. The 40 participants were divided into teams that had to go out and invite people to attend an informational meeting. The meeting was scheduled as part of the effort to build a new club in the neighborhood. Governor Ardis says, "Those attending the convention in Lincoln will have the opportunity to hear more about what we learned."



*l to r: Ron Shilling, Bruce Greenwood, Al Penner, Governor Ardis Moody, and Governor-elect Mark Claussen*

## Nebraska in "The Optimist"

Nebraska has only one mention in the current issue of "The Optimist." The Lincoln Evening Club is listed as an Eminent Benefactor Club for their lifetime donations totaling over \$10,000.

## District Tri-Star Football and Punt Pass & Kick Sectional 2009

The annual District Tri-Star Football Final will again combine with the NFL Punt, Pass, & Kick Sectional on Sunday, October 4, 2009, at Nebraska Wesleyan's Abel Stadium located at 54th & Huntington in Lincoln. Registration and warm-up will begin at 11:15 am with the competition starting at noon.

Optimist trophies will be awarded to the top five boys and five girls in each of eight age categories. NFL medals and the chance to advance to the Kansas City Chiefs team competition will be awarded to the top three boys and three girls in each of four age categories (provided the sponsoring Optimist Club has signed up as an official local site with NFL at [www.nflyouthfootball.com](http://www.nflyouthfootball.com)).

A \$60 registration fee is required of each club entering participants in the Optimist Tri-Star Football portion of the contest. All registrations must be postmarked no later than Thursday, September 24, 2009. Include the \$60 check payable to "SCOYF," the official Results Forms (one each for boys and girls), photocopies of the winner's birth certificates, and the signed Entry Form/Release of Liability from the local contest.

Please get your local contest scheduled and registered with NFL today. Go to the district website or contact Bob Grundman ([grundman@inetnebr.com](mailto:grundman@inetnebr.com)) for a copy of the contest details and Results Forms. The address for the district website is [www.nebraskaoptimists.org](http://www.nebraskaoptimists.org).

Bob Grundman

Do you feel lucky?



Be sure to attend the Duck Pluck on Friday August 7th at the Lincoln Children's Zoo. The activity, with a chance for prizes and a visit to the Children's Zoo, are free with your convention registration!!

## 2009 Sectional Pitch, Hit, & Run Results

A Kansas City Royals Pitch, Hit, & Run Sectional hosted by the Star City Optimist Youth Foundation was held May 23rd at the Optimist Youth Sports Complex in Lincoln. Fifty-six winners from contests in 20 Nebraska communities participated.

### The Winners



#### 7-8 Year Old Division

*l to r: Morgan Fawver, McCook, 2nd place; Jayden Arehart, Neligh, 1st place; Alex Ehrman, Roseland, 3rd place*



#### 9-10 Year Old Division

*l to r: Will Dostal, Lincoln, 3rd place; Dalton Meyer, Fairbury, 1st place; Reid Jurgenmeier, Wahoo, 2nd place*



#### 11-12 Year Old Division

*pictured: Chase Kallhoff, Neligh, 1st place; not pictured: Chance Stevenson, Hastings, 2nd place; Kevin Christensen, Hastings, 3rd place*



#### 13-14 Year Old Division

*l to r: Lukas Broz, Wilber, 2nd place; Quinn McGill, Wahoo, 1st place; Adrian St. Martin, Lincoln 3rd place*

submitted by Bob Grundman  
photos by Ed kujath

## Around the Nebraska District

The **Seward Optimist Club** hosted a NOW dinner with "fantastic results - 11 new members!" There was a presentation on the Optimist organization and a summary of the activities and fundraisers the club sponsors to support the youth. After the presentations, they held a Wii bowling tournament. By getting 11 new members, you know everyone had a good time!

**Omaha Breakfast** held a carnival for the Hope Center on June 6th. The Hope Center is an inner-city organization whose mission is to provide youth the skills and opportunities to make a positive impact in their lives and community. The carnival featured food, snow cones, cotton candy, and carnival games. There were plenty of prizes with a grand prize of a notebook computer system. Member Tom McCurdy was able to raise over \$3,200 in funding and merchandise prizes for the event. Other clubs helping the Breakfast Club were: **Omaha, Omaha Miracle Hills, North Omaha, South Omaha, Papillion-LaVista, Blair,** and the **Norfolk JOOI Club**.

**Holdrege Optimists** volunteered to assist the Red Cross Blood Mobile on a recent visit to Holdrege. Club members helped set up and take down the equipment.

The **Star City Optimist Youth Foundation** (consisting of the five Lincoln Optimist Clubs) has a record number of participants for the Homer's Heroes baseball league. The league is for youth with special needs. There are special rules for the special youth. Everyone gets to bat twice, no one gets put out, and every child in the field gets a ball when the batter gets a hit. Everyone, Optimists included, have fun with the six-week league.

**North Bend Optimists** are working on the batting cage at Groff Field. When completed, it will be a benefit to local youth.

**Lincoln Downtown Optimists** sponsored a luau to honor kids and their foster families from Cedars. Cedars is an organization that helps kids in crisis. Cedars provides emergency services and shelter, foster care, life skills living programs, early childhood development and juvenile justice services. Approximately 300 people attended the event. After the luau-style dinner and entertainment, there were plenty of games for the youth.

**Fairbury Optimists** helped to keep people cool during Fairbury's Wild West Days on June 6th by operating a snow-cone stand.

**Gretna Optimists** hosted a hamburger/hotdog feed at the city park on June 20th during the Gretna Music Festival. The festival featured local bands with the festival proceeds going to the Matthew Alexander Foundation to help provide affordable band instruments for local students.

The **Paxton Club** awarded two \$750 scholarships to graduating seniors at the graduation ceremonies.



**JOOI**  
**The Future**  
**of**  
**Optimism**

**Lincoln**

The Lighthouse JOOI club spent a hot Friday afternoon taking care of one of the islands in the parking area at the Optimist Youth Sports Complex. They plan on making this an ongoing project. Among other things, they hope to keep the weeds out, the rocks in, and keep it an attractive oasis.

**Norfolk**

Norfolk JOOI, along with a newly forming JOOI Club from Omaha Nathan Hale Middle School, have been cleaning coins that were "fished" from The River in the Atrium of Children's Hospital. Half of the coins went to Nathan Hale and half were taken to Norfolk for cleaning. When the clubs are finished, approximately \$1,500 will be given back to the hospital for activities for the young patients.

The Octagon Club at Norfolk Sr. High School has a commercial airing in the Norfolk area during June and July. The commercial is entitled, "Don't Drive While InTEXTicated." It was produced by CableOne and sponsored by several local businesses and a grant from Project Ignition and the National Youth Leadership Council.

Governor Heineman once again recognized the JOOI Clubs for having made the Nebraska Safety Belt Honor Roll. To reach Honor Roll status, there had to be two consecutive safety belt compliance checks, with 80% compliance or greater.

# Nebraska District Convention

August 7-9, 2009

Country Inn & Suites  
5353 North 27th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska

## Friday, August 7

- 12:30 Registration  
12:30 Golf Scramble – Shotgun Start – Bob Wriedt  
1:00-5:00 Lieutenant Governor-Elect Training – Michel Listenberger (Chamber Room)  
1:00 Activities for non-golfers  
  
5:30 – 8:30 Lincoln West “Duck Pluck” at Lincoln Children’s Zoo  
Picnic in the Park next to the Zoo, provided by Star City Optimist Youth Foundation  
(Transportation available – parking is limited in the Zoo area)

## Saturday, August 8

- 7:30 Registration  
8:00 – 8:30 Opening – Welcome - Recognition of First Timers (Nebraska Ballroom)

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9:00 – 3:00 *Activities Provided for Pre-Registered Children and Teammates of Optimist Members*

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- 8:30 – 12:00 President-Elect Training – Michel Listenberger and Sam Keiffer (Executive Room)  
8:30 – 10:30 Lt. Governor-Elect Training – Sam Keiffer and District Training Staff (Chamber Room)  
8:30 – 10:30 Secretary-Treasurer Training – District Training Staff (Lighthouse Room)  
8:30 – 9:15 ^Fundraising Success Stories – Nebraska Club Members (Board Room)  
^Resources and Information We Can All Use – District Training Staff (Capitol Room)  
9:30 – 10:15 ^Great Things to do with Kids – Nebraska Club Members (Board Room)  
^Celebrating CCC – Nebraska Club Members (Capitol Room)  
^What We Learned in Denver – Al Penner, Ron Shilling, Bruce Greenwood,  
Governor-elect Mark Claussen, and Governor Ardis Moody (Nebraska Ballroom)  
10:45 – 12:00 ^Executive Committee Meeting (Lighthouse Room)  
^First Timers’ Meeting (Board Room)  
^Qualities of Good Meetings and Parliamentary Procedure (Capitol Room)  
  
12:15 – 1:15 Luncheon – Guest Speaker OI Vice President Sam Keiffer (Nebraska Ballroom)  
  
1:30 – 2:30 Business Meeting (Nebraska Ballroom)  
2:30 – 4:00 Bicycle Rodeo (Parking Lot)  
4:15 – 5:00 Mixed Zone Discussions and Brainstorming (Rooms and Agendas to be Distributed)  
  
6:00 Social / Cocktail Hour  
6:30 Banquet – Guest Speaker OI Certified Trainer Michel Listenberger (Nebraska Ballroom)  
*(Business or Semi-formal Attire Requested)*  
Program

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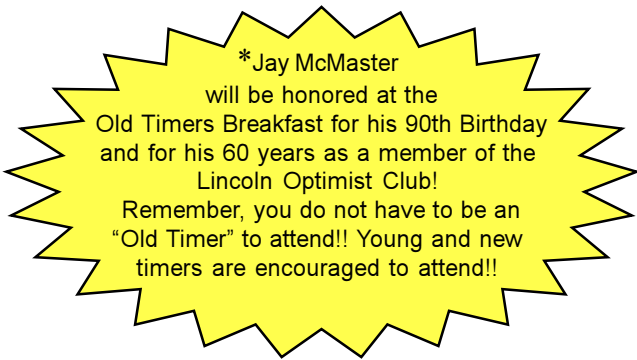
6:00 – 9:00 *Activities Provided for Pre-Registered Children of Optimists*

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- 9:00 Hospitality Room

## Sunday, August 9

- 8:00 Memorial and Worship Service (Board Room)  
8:30 \*Old Timer’s Breakfast (Nebraska Ballroom)  
10:00 Convention Session (Nebraska Ballroom)  
Mileage and Attendance Banners  
11:00 Creed and Departure for Safe Trip Home



\*Jay McMaster  
will be honored at the  
Old Timers Breakfast for his 90th Birthday  
and for his 60 years as a member of the  
Lincoln Optimist Club!  
Remember, you do not have to be an  
“Old Timer” to attend!! Young and new  
timers are encouraged to attend!!

# Nebraska District Optimist Convention, August 7-9, 2009

Advance registration helps us plan a better conference!  
 Thanks for sending registration in promptly!  
 See you in Lincoln!

**Hotel reservations must be made by Wednesday, July 29, 2009**

Country Inn and Suites  
 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln NE 68521  
 Phone 402-476-5353    Convention Rate: \$85.00

**(must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, July 29, 2009)**

	Member	Teammate	Youth
Advance Registration (\$30 on site)	___ @ \$20.00 = \$ ___	___ @ \$0.00 = \$ ___	___ (\$10.00) \$ ___
<b>New members since 8/1/08</b>	___ FREE!	___ @ \$0.00 = \$ ___	___ (\$10.00) \$ ___

Friday afternoon -

Lt. Governor-Elect Training  
 Golf Scramble  
 Non-Golfing Activities

___ @ \$55.00 = \$ ___	___ \$ 55.00 = \$ ___	
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(Activities and fees, if any, to be determined depending on number of participants.)

Friday evening -

"Duck Pluck" at the Zoo

Picnic in the Park, hosted by SCOYF

Transportation available - Limited Parking at Zoo

Followed by Hospitality Room at Hotel

___ ( Free ! )	___ ( Free ! )	___ (Free ! )
___ Transportation	___ Transportation	___ Transportation

7:30 Saturday morning - Registration

Coffee and Rolls in Atrium

President-Elect Training

Secretary/Treasurer Designate Training

___ ( Free ! )	___ ( Free ! )
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Teammates and children of members:

Saturday teammate tours/events (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Saturday events / activities for children (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Saturday evening child care/supervision (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

(Children's activities and supervision are included in the above \$10 registration fee)

Saturday Luncheon - Vegetable Cobb Salad  
 OR Deli Hoagie Sandwich

___ @\$12.00 = \$ ___	___ @\$12.00 = \$ ___	
___ @\$12.00 = \$ ___	___ @\$12.00 = \$ ___	

Saturday Banquet - Grilled Sirloin  
 OR Chicken Cordon Bleu

___ @\$20.00 = \$ ___	___ @ \$20.00 = \$ ___	
___ @\$20.00 = \$ ___	___ @ \$20.00 = \$ ___	

Sunday Breakfast - "Old Timer's" Fun Breakfast  
 Hot Breakfast Buffet

___ @ \$10.00 = \$ ___	___ @ \$10.00 = \$ ___	
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Subtotals (meals include tax and gratuity)

\$ ___	\$ ___	\$ ___
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Grand Total

\$ \_\_\_

Please list any special dietary needs or requests for vegetarian meals. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Meal availability is not guaranteed with on-site registration. Pre-registration is important!  
 Any who register and fail to attend will be billed for meals reserved.**

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  

(Last Name)
(First Name)
(Last Name)
(First Name)

2008-2009 Office: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

2009-2010 Office: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Teammate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth (names & ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Rhonda Wiebers, 11526 Maass Road, Apt. #203, Bellevue, NE 68005 Phone 402-293-9134  
 or email: [rwiebers@cox.net](mailto:rwiebers@cox.net)

# Proposed Policy Changes

Recommended deletions are in ~~strikeout type~~; new language is in bold, the *rationale offered by the Policy Review Committee is in italics.*

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Members are asked to discuss these proposals in their clubs and zones and direct any questions or concerns to the Governor prior to July 29, 2009. Voting on these proposals will take place at the Convention in Lincoln on August 8.

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## IV. DISTRICT COMMITTEES

### C. CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN (CCC) COMMITTEE

1. The CCC Committee will be composed of three (3) members, a District Chairperson, ~~the a~~ Past District Chairperson, and one (1) additional committee member appointed by the Governor, each serving a three (3) year staggered terms.

*Rationale: It is not always possible for committee members to stay on for three years. This insures continuity while providing for a replacement for a member leaving the committee.*

### E. ~~CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE~~

1. ~~The Credentials Committee will be composed of a District Chairperson, the Past District Chairperson, and one (1) additional committee member appointed by the Governor each member serving a three (3) year staggered term.~~
2. ~~The duties of the Credentials Committee shall be:~~
  - a. ~~To inspect the credentials and qualifications of all delegates to the annual District Convention;~~
  - b. ~~To certify accredited delegates; and~~
  - c. ~~To report thereon to the convention.~~

*Rationale: The duties are already assigned to the District Secretary-Treasurer. Past practice has been for the registrars at a conference or convention to assist the Secretary-Treasurer with these tasks. There is no need for an additional committee.*

### F. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The Finance Committee will be composed of the **Governor and District Secretary-Treasurer and the Governor-elect and District Secretary-Treasurer Designate.** ~~current District Secretary-Treasurer, the Immediate Past District Secretary-Treasurer, the Past District Secretary-Treasurer, the Governor, the Governor Elect, and anyone else appointed by the Governor. The Past District Secretary-Treasurer will serve as Chairperson of the Committee.~~

*Rationale: Financial responsibility rests with the current and incoming administration as they carry out the budget of the current year and budget for the coming year.*

2. The Committee will meet **at the call of the Governor.** ~~three (3) times during the year: during the month of November, at the time of the third quarter District Conference, and before the annual District Convention.~~

*Rationale: The current administration is most aware of financial and budget concerns that need to be addressed and the Governor should be the one to call meetings to address those issues.*

3. The duties of the Finance Committee shall be as follows:
  - a. To assist the Governor Elect and his or her District Secretary-Treasurer in preparing the annual budget for submission to the incoming District Executive Committee for recommendation to the incoming District Board of Directors. **The proposed budget will be presented at the annual District Convention.**

*Rationale: As new District leaders are trained at the District Convention, the budget should be presented and discussed so that they are informed voters when the budget is approved at the First Quarter Conference. This also provides a smoother transition and gives the Governor-elect a better understanding of what to expect in regard to district finances.*

- b. To assist with a smooth transition from one (1) administrative year to the next;
- c. ~~To ensure the proper forms are submitted to the Internal Revenue Service on time each year;~~
- d. ~~To assist the District Secretary-Treasurer with the collection of both International and District dues and fees;~~
- e. ~~To review the District's investment accounts;~~
- f. ~~To review and recommend District fundraisers as needed;~~
- g. ~~To review the budget for each District Program or Activity; and~~
- h. ~~To review the fees charged for each District Program or Activity with input from the Program or Activity Committee Chairperson.~~

*Rationale: These are included as the duties of the District Secretary-Treasurer.*

4. One (1) member of the Finance Committee shall be a signatory on all District Accounts along with the Governor and District Secretary-Treasurer. **Recommended signators shall be the Past Governor and Past District Secretary-Treasurer, the Governor and Secretary-Treasurer, the Governor-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer Designate. No fewer than two names shall be kept on the accounts at all times.**

*Rationale: This provides for dual signature checks and the transition between administrative years.*

#### E. JUNIOR OCTAGON OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (JOOI) CLUBS COMMITTEE

1. The JOOI Clubs Committee will be composed of a District Chairperson, ~~the a~~ Past District Chairperson, and at least one (1) additional committee member appointed by the Governor each serving a three (3) year staggered term.

*Rationale: It is not always possible for committee members to stay on for three years. This insures continuity while providing for a replacement for a member leaving the committee.*

5. The Optimist District shall use all dues rebate funds to support District JOOI activities.
6. **The District shall budget line items 373 to be used for** ~~such activities as may include~~ the JOOI District Convention, the production and distribution of a JOOI District Newsletter, reimbursement of travel expenses and communication costs for JOOI District Officers, and any other District JOOI expenses approved by the District JOOI Committee. Any rebate funds not utilized by year-end shall be rolled over into the next year's JOOI budget.

*Rationale: This is consistent with current practice but clarifies and insures support for our important youth clubs.*

#### F. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. The Leadership Development Committee will be composed of four (4) members, three (3) members each serving staggered three (3) year terms and the fourth member being the Governor Elect. The Committee shall consist of not more **than three (3) past members of the District Board of Directors.** ~~than two (2) past District leaders (Past Governors or Lieutenant Governors) and at least one (1) past Club President.~~

*Rationale: This simplifies the description. Past governors, lieutenant governors and past presidents have, by definition, all been members of the Board of Directors.*

#### G. NEW CLUB BUILDING COMMITTEE

1. The New Club Building Committee will be composed of three (3) or more members, representing a geographical distribution throughout the District, with experience in or an interest in learning about building New Clubs. ~~The Chairperson shall be a Builder of Excellence or an experienced new Club Builder.~~

*Rationale: This is not always possible or practical and is not an OI recommendation or requirement.*

#### H. OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP (OIJGC) COMMITTEE

1. The OIJGC Committee will be composed of at least three (3) members, a District Chairperson, ~~the a~~ Past District Chairperson, and one (1) additional committee member appointed by the Governor, each serving a three (3) year staggered term. ~~and the Chairperson of each of the Regional Qualifying Tournaments within the District.~~

*Rationale: It is not always possible for committee members to stay on for three years. This insures continuity while providing for a replacement for a member leaving the committee. The District no longer conducts regional qualifying tournaments.*

#### G. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. ~~The Programs and Activities Committee will be composed of at least three (3) Chairpersons from any of the following District Programs and Activities: Achievement and Awards (A & A) Program, Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC), Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CGDHH), Community Projects Awards (CPA), District Scrapbook Contest, Essay Contest, Optimist International Junior Golf Championship (OIJGC), Oratorical Contest and Tri-Star Sports. The Chairperson will be appointed by the Governor.~~
2. The duties of the Programs and Activities Committee shall be:
  - a. ~~To promote Club participation in the three (3) major areas of Optimist International Projects:~~
    - i. ~~Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC);~~
    - ii. ~~Scholarship Contests;~~
      - A: ~~Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CGDHH);~~
      - B: ~~Essay Contest;~~
      - C: ~~Oratorical Contest;~~
    - iii. ~~Optimist International Junior Golf Championship (OIJGC);~~
  - b. ~~To promote Club participation and entries in the Community Projects Award (CPA) Program;~~
  - c. ~~To promote Club participation in the Optimist International Youth Appreciation program each year;~~
  - d. ~~To promote Club participation, with an emphasis on youth participation, in the Optimist International Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence program each year;~~
  - e. ~~To provide motivational presentations, informative roundtable discussions and activity display tables promoting youth and community service activities at District Meetings; and~~

- f. To make regular reports to the general membership on forthcoming project opportunities utilizing the District Bulletin, District Website and any other appropriate methods.

*Rationale: Each committee functions well in planning, coordinating and promoting the programs and events of the District. There is no need for an additional committee to oversee or report on these efforts. This committee has not been in place in recent years.*

#### E. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

1. The Public Relations and Publicity Committee will be composed of a Chairperson, appointed by the Governor, and at least three (3) other members including the District Bulletin Editor, District Photographer, and District Webmaster.
2. The duties of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee shall be:
  - a. To enhance the image of Optimism, as a positive-minded youth service organization, throughout the District;
  - b. To produce and distribute a District Bulletin at least once each quarter;
    - i. The Governor shall appoint a District Bulletin Editor to oversee the publication of the District Bulletin.
    - ii. The costs, publication frequency and method of distribution for the District Bulletin shall be established by the district administration from year to year according to budgetary provisions and available funds.
    - iii. The District Bulletin shall be issued and delivered to all District Officers, District Committee Chairpersons, each member Club and the International Office and Officers;
  - c. To maintain a District Website with appropriate and timely information;
  - d. To assist District Committees and Chairpersons in contacting media outlets to promote their projects;
  - e. To continuously be in contact with media outlets about ongoing District-wide service projects such as CGC, OJGG and scholarship contests;
  - f. To distribute Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to all local radio stations in the District;
  - g. To write and distribute news releases for every Honor or Distinguished Club in the District to their respective local newspapers;
  - h. To write and distribute news releases about winning Community Project Award (GPA/Grey Book) entries for distribution to both Optimist and other media outlets;
  - i. To arrange local media interviews with official Optimist International representatives, including the International President or Vice President, the District Governor, and other visitors to the District, and to write news releases for any such interviews;
  - j. To encourage Clubs to submit news releases to their local news media, the District Bulletin and Website, and to *The Optimist* magazine; and
  - k. To have information tables with public relation aids and roundtable discussions at District Meetings to assist Clubs with publicity and public relations in their respective communities.

*Rationale: The editors, webmaster, and photographer work efficiently and effectively without the involvement of additional committee members. This committee also has not been in place in recent years.*

#### V. DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

##### E. DISTRICT SCRAPBOOK JUDGING

1. The Club scrapbook judging shall be held in conjunction with the second quarter District Conference.
2. The scrapbook will be judged on the previous administrative year.
3. If possible, the judges shall be Past District Governors.

*Rationale: There no longer seems to be enough interest in this activity to retain it as a District program.*

- D. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION—With due respect to the location and duration of the International Convention, the Governor, Governor Elect, District Secretary-Treasurer, District Secretary-Treasurer Elect and Lieutenant Governors Elect shall receive an amount, to be budgeted annually, toward the expense of attending the International Convention, excluding those expenses reimbursable by Optimist International. **Additionally those persons serving as the District OI Convention Ambassador and the District Foundation Representative (DFR) shall receive some compensation for attending the OI Convention.** To be reimbursed, the individual must attend his or her respective training sessions, be registered at the full convention and show evidence thereof. when submitting an expense voucher. **No individual shall be reimbursed for more than a single position.**

*Rationale: It has been District practice that those who attend OI Convention are reimbursed at the convention during the Nebraska dinner. In the interest of a balanced budget, those who attend the Convention for training will be reimbursed for training for only one of the positions listed above. Some financial compensation would also be provided for the District OI Convention Ambassador and the DFR. No one will be able to "double dip" from the District account.*

*Policy Review Committee  
Robert Grundman, Del Salmen, Gaylea Sturgis, Ardis Moody  
April 2009*