

THE BULLETIN



By providing hope and a positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.



Governor's Message

caring, and meaningful life. If we can live the Creed, we will be more happy, healthy, wealthy, and wise.

OPTIMIST NAME – At a time when the news media plays on all of the negative events that occur, our Optimist name stands tall for a more positive, happier, and forward looking attitude and perspective. I would much rather be an Optimist than a pessimist, wouldn't you?

DIVERSE MEMBERS -- Our members consist of all ages, colors, sexes, occupations, and wealth statuses. This diversity creates strength and promotes understanding even as we continue to work towards furthering that ideal.

STRONG LEADERS – Our members are willing and able to step forward to take prominent leadership roles in our Clubs, District, and Communities. This enables our organization to make an impact on our Youth and our Society as a whole.

ACTIVITIES – It is truly amazing the number of Youth and Community Serving Projects in which Optimist Clubs across the State are involved. This provides meaningful benefits in the development of our youth and communities. By participating in these activities, our members grow personally while serving.

KNOWLEDGE – Our diverse and experienced membership contains a wealth of knowledge. That knowledge translates into

well run projects, new ideas, new challenges, and new opportunities. In addition, a variety of speakers will add to the wealth of knowledge already possessed, enabling us to grow as people and keep us plugged into our communities.

WORK TOGETHER – We work together to solve problems in our local communities, but also team up with other Optimist Clubs to fight Childhood Cancer, conduct Academic Decathlon Competitions, provide Scholarships through Oratorical, Essay, and CCDH competitions. As a result, we are able to accomplish a lot more than would be possible individually.

RICH HISTORY – We have a rich history with the Lincoln Club reaching their 86th year milestone and Omaha turning 78 years young this Optimist year. My own Club, Omaha Breakfast celebrates its 50th year in December. More importantly, every Club in the Nebraska District can boast of a rich history of providing service to Youth and Community.

RESILIENCY – The rich history has required resiliency because everything has not always gone as planned. Never the less, our members have stepped forward and performed admirably in tough times as well as good. Hence, we look forward to a bright future.

DEFINED/SHARED PURPOSE – We are the “Friend of Youth”. Whether we are conducting an Athletic Program, Academic

Welcome! I look forward to serving you as your Optimist Governor during the coming year and hope we can accomplish some great things together.

Please join me in thanking Immediate Past Governor Russ Zeeb for his leadership in the past year and for his continued involvement with Nebraska Optimists. Thank you Russ!

The District Leadership Team for the coming year recently held a District Leadership Retreat at Mahoney State Park. While there, we did a SWOT Analysis where we looked at Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Nebraska Optimist Organization and our membership. Here are some of the strengths that we listed:

OPTIMIST CREED – The Optimist Creed is a beautiful and energizing document that encourages a positive, fulfilling,

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Decathlon, Childhood Cancer Fundraiser, Oratorical Contest, or Halloween Party, we strive to “Bring out the Best in Kids”! That is our Defined/Shared Purpose!

FLEXIBILITY – While we have shared purpose, we can also be flexible. A new member may see a need, make a proposal, and have it adopted by the Club. In short, we are not obligated to run a specified curriculum of activities. We can develop our own. This permits us to respond to the changing needs in the community and in society.

FELLOWSHIP – A by-product of these activities, shared purpose, etc. is great fellowship. Some of my best friendships were developed working on projects, participating in social activities, our weekly meetings, and getting to know my fellow Optimists. I look forward to our times together. Also, while we do not advertise it like the “Tips Club” that meets across the hall from my Club’s meetings, friendships developed often lead to business relationships as well social relationships.

FUN – The fellowship, the camaraderie, the social events, the working for a common purpose can simply be FUN! And that is one of our most important reasons for being!

PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE – We develop Optimism as a Philosophy of Life. When you combine the Optimist Creed, a Positive Mental Attitude, Service to Youth and Community, Fun and Fellowship, it makes for well rounded citizens. Researchers tell us that an Optimistic Philosophy of Life can improve our Health as well as Quality of Life. What more could you ask?

We continued some of these discussions at the District Conference in North Platte on October 14 -15th.

~ Dick

International Vice President’s Message

Greetings Optimists of the Nebraska District and the GREAT Plains region!

Let me begin by asking you – **why are you a member of an Optimist club?** What brought you to the place where you are in your Optimist life today? Was it the kids? The fellowship? The fun? The service to your community? **What keeps you doing what you are doing?** Is it still the fellowship or the service? Or is it because of the personal growth that you have attained because of certain tenets of our Optimist Creed?

What if no one had ever asked you to join an Optimist Club? What if you’d never had the opportunity to see the grin on a small child’s face when you handed him that bicycle helmet? What if you’d never had the opportunity to see the grateful tears of a single mom when you and a couple club members walked up to her door with a Thanksgiving meal for her and her children? What if...?

Please join with me to ***Bring Out the Best in Kids 100% and then some...*** . When we concentrate on who we are, our **ATTITUDE** gives us possibilities, our **PRIORITIES** give us focus, our **HEALTH** gives us strength, our **FAMILY** gives us stability, our **THINKING** gives us an advantage, our **COMMITMENT** gives us tenacity, our **FINANCES** give us options, our **FAITH** gives us peace, our **RELATIONSHIPS** give us fulfillment, our **GENEROSITY** gives us significance, our **VALUES** give us directions, and our **GROWTH** gives us potential.

What is your potential as an Optimist? Will you grow and believe in yourself? The kids that we serve need us. It’s a challenge for each of us, but I **BELIEVE** that we will ***Bring Out the Best in Kids 100% and then some...***?



Yours in Optimism,

Judy Boyd

2011 – 2012

Great Plains Vice President

Past Governor's Message



This year came and went quickly. First and foremost, thanks to all Nebraska District Optimists for a great year, although our membership numbers are down, we continue to serve the youth of Nebraska in every way we can. Good job.

Secondly, special thanks to all the Lt. Governors, committee chairs and committee members that worked tirelessly in the past year, GREAT JOB!!

Even though the year is over, I am still on the executive board and will be serving as the Immediate Past Governor, and will assist your local clubs in any way possible. I tried to make it to every club to visit, although not all of them, but a lot. Ogallala, Lexington and Minden, were the farthest west, South Sioux City to the north, Auburn, Beatrice and Fairbury to the South, as well as most in the Omaha/Lincoln area. In fact, my last week, with only 28 hours left, I visited and Installed my friend Doug Anderson as Club President in Lincoln. Thanks to all the

clubs for their hospitality.

As I look back at my year, many, many accomplishments, many, many good deeds and thousand of youth assisted.

I am starting to work on my club/member awards that will be given at the Second Quarter Conference in February. Optimist International sent me an email yesterday that they are finalizing numbers for clubs and awards and they hope to have me their report in 2-3 weeks.

Take care and stay safe. Please contact me at anytime and keep up the good work

~ Russ

New Members

Southwest Omaha

Randy Herrick

Brian Brockman, Sponsor (2)

Jennifer King

Tanya Patzner, Sponsor

Omaha Breakfast

Cheryl Campbell

Frankie Charles

Daryl Divoky

Deb Johnson

Jody Sharpe

Betty Nelum, Sponsor (6)

Simone Rock

Doug Zbylut

Shellie McGlade-Kent, Sponsor (2)

Norfolk Noon

John Nelson

Lesley Hanson, Sponsor (4)

Ashley Sicka

Jennifer Herrick, Sponsor

Omaha

Kaye Singer

Jerry Bexton, Sponsor

Wayne

Mike Dunklau

Kim Dunklau, Sponsor

Kathleen Falk

Lynette Krie, Sponsor

Traci Burrows

Doug Mohl

Diane Peterson

Bob Wriedt, Sponsor (5)

Beatrice

Tony Hinz

Bob "Fritz" Kluge, Sponsor

Fairbury

Ryan Bailey

Nichel Grubbs

Joseph Grubbs

Judith Kluge, Sponsor (8)

Aurora

Jennifer Badura

Tim Huls

Doug Kittle, Sponsor (2)

Cathy Sigler

Wendy Perry, Sponsor

Columbus

Brad Hruska

Lisa Rosendahl, Sponsor

North Platte

Justina Blake

Robert Bowker

Gregory Eklund

Tamara Bannister, Sponsor (3)

There were 127 new members added to Nebraska District rosters in 2010-2011. 67 of 1,726 (3.9%) members sponsored a new member this year. Of these, 20 (1.2%) sponsored multiple members!

Calendar and Club Events

Calendar of Events

October 25 - Breakfast Optimist Club 50th Anniversary Celebration & Installation Dinner

October 27 - Grand Island Area Optimist Charter Club Celebration

You are Cordially Invited to the Breakfast Optimist Club of Omaha 50th Anniversary Celebration, Officer and New Member Installation Dinner

Tuesday, October 25th

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Social Hour from 5:30-6:30)

Comfort Inn & Suites Banquet Room—7007 Grover Street (72nd & Grover Street)

The Buffet Dinner Theme is "Taste of Italy"

Tossed Greens with Ranch & Italian Dressing, Grilled Italian Sausage with Peppers and Onions, Chicken Marsala over Herbed Orzo, Italian Blend Vegetables, Garlic Toast, Cannoli's and Tiramisu for dessert, Coffee and Iced Tea (or Cash Bar)

Approximate Cost: \$20 - \$25/person

RSVP Requested but not required to Doug Palank

Call (402) 618-3943 (or text message via Verizon) or dpalank@cox.net

Save the Date

Grand Island Area Optimist Club Charter Celebration

When: Thursday, October 27, 2011

Time: Social @ 6:00 p.m. / Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Saddle Club

See attached flyer!

The Bulletin Changes

Please be sure to send all electronic club newsletters and items to go in the District Bulletin to nebulletineditor@gmail.com. We now have a committee to help create the Bulletin so there will be different people accessing the e-mails. **Darrell Wheaton** from Lincoln Evening will be taking care of gathering information from the club newsletters and doing the photos. **Raylee Vosberg** from Norfolk will be helping me with layout and keeping the e-mail database up to date.

~ Melissa

***Want something included in the Bulletin?
E-mail nebulletineditor@gmail.com
by October 31st.***



Like us on
Facebook

Around the District

The **Norfolk Noon Optimist Club** had a Family Game Night with Head Start families on October 13th. They also helped chaperone the JOOI Dance for Childhood Cancer on October 14th.

The **Lincoln Evening Club** delivered produce from Community Crops to the four Cedars sites on October 3rd and 10th which provides food to youth.

The **Paxton Optimist Club** held their Punt, Pass & Kick event on September 24th and the Paxton School Football Field.

The **District PP&K** Sectional competition was held at Nebraska Wesleyan's Abel Field on October 16th. The Lincoln clubs volunteered to help with the event.

The **Holdrege Optimist Club** set up and took down for the Blood Mobile on September 28th at the Ag Center.

The **Kearney Optimist Club** held their fall Youth Appreciation event at the UNK volleyball match against Mesa, Colorado, on October 14th. They handed out Optimist frisbees to the kids after the match.

The **Grand Island Optimist Club** participated in the 2011 All Hallows Evenings at Stuhr Museum's Treat Trail on October 14th. The club set up a table as children use maps to go on the trails to get their treats. The event provides a safe, educational opportunity for the area youth.

The **Ogallala Optimist Club** will have a driver for the Soap Box Derby Adult Race since they are a sponsor.

The **Optimist Club of Lincoln** volunteered at the 5th annual Pumpkin Decorating Party on October 19th for Saratoga, Everett, Prescott Elementary School children. They helped keep the kids off South Street as well as keeping order at the painting tables. The traveling banner for the most miles traveled to the conference by a club was won by their club and the Zone banner went to Zone 6.

Scholarship Contest Topics for 2011-2012

Optimist International has recently announced the scholarship contest topics for 2011-2012. Here they are:

Essay: "How my Positive Outlook Benefits my Community"

CCDHH/Oratorical: "How my Optimism Helps me Overcome Obstacles"

Start planning now with the new school year starting!

**Have you checked out the
Nebraska District Website lately?**

**The website is
www.nebraskaoptimists.org.**

Contact Nels Sorensen Jr. from the Fairbury Optimist Club if you want to include something on the website.

The Bulletin is a monthly publication.
Deadline for The Bulletin is the last day of the month. Send your club articles, pictures and calendar of events to
nebulletineditor@gmail.com

JOOI News

Dear Friends of Youth...

Norfolk JOOI members have been giving 100% and then some...

1) JOOI members conducted two safety belt compliance checks with Norfolk PD officers (one each at the MS and JH) in the last couple of weeks. Compliance in the front of the MS was 89%, but only 73% at the JH. We have six more checks scheduled on consecutive Tuesday mornings at the MS, JH and SH. We are gathering some baseline data as part of local "Safe Community" efforts!

2) JOOI members hosted over 500 people at during our 4th Annual JOOI FUNdraiser at Poppy's Pumpkin Patch on Friday, September 23rd, and raised some much needed funds for club projects!

3) Jr. Optimists from the Norfolk MS have participated in three activities with residents of the Madison House in the last week. We had our month Horseracing on Friday, September 30th. On Sunday, October 2nd (Intergeneration Day), we had a Wii Bowling Tournament with residents and played "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" with residents on Thursday, October 6th, as part of "Intergeneration Week". We are also in the process of coordinating an "Adopt-a-Grandparent" parent with residents that will have our members taking their relationship with members to a new level!

4) JOOI members from the SH and JH sold concessions during Norfolk Panther home football games this season along with HyVee East to help raise funds for club projects and activities!

5) Octagon members from Norfolk SH are bringing new life to youth efforts to help prevent underage drinking in Madison County thru Project Extra Mile. Watch for good things to come from this effort!

...and here's what's coming up in the next couple of weeks...

6) Jr. Optimists will be participating with the StuCo and administration to help make Norfolk Jr. High a "No Place for Hate" School. Our efforts will "kickoff" on Thursday, 10/13, when R5 Productions comes to spend the day with students. We will be having students sign a pledge, and engaging in other activities in the coming weeks as we work to make the school a safe place for all students!

7) JOOI members will be hosting our "JOOI Dance for Childhood Cancer" at Norfolk Jr. High on Friday, October 14th. Last year, we raised \$2,000.00 to help families in Nebraska affected by childhood cancer and there's every reason to believe this year will be just as successful!

8) Octagon members are making plans to go to Children's Hospital in Omaha on Friday, October 21st, to do a mini-carnival for patients and siblings. Afterwards, they'll be touring the Rainbow House and preparing a meal for families there!

Thanks for all the support we receive from the school and community!

Mark Claussen, Advisor

Norfolk Panther JOOI Clubs

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

