

**Nebraska 2nd Quarter District Conference via Zoom
General Business Session Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 27, 2021**

Call to Order:

The Nebraska District Optimist 2nd Quarter General Business Session was called to order on Saturday, February 27, 2021, via Zoom at 11:22 a.m. by Governor Sandra Allen.

Roll Call:

Roll call was removed from the meeting agenda. Governor Allen thanked all Nebraska Lieutenant Governors for registering for the conference and asked that the conference registration serve as the roll call for the general business session meeting. Curtis Huston has the final registration roster. Governor Allen stressed that club presidents need to be at district meetings because they are on the Board of Directors and have voting responsibilities.

Old Business:

Governor Allen said the minutes from the November 14, 2020, general business session meeting were emailed for review a few weeks ago. As such, with no changes from meeting attendees on February 27, the minutes stand as approved.

Finance Report:

Curtis Huston shared income and expense reports from recent months. Total income is \$6,405.01 as of February 25, which includes current year dues and previous year dues; total expenses are \$2,441.77, which includes directory expenses, 2019-2020 District Convention and marketing expenses. This results in a positive cash flow of just over \$3,900. Expenses have been reduced due to COVID. In-person events and travel have been reduced dramatically in 2020 and early 2021. Most clubs are paying their dues on a quarterly basis; 13 clubs out of the 45 Nebraska clubs still owe second quarter dues. The goal is to have a zero-based, fully balanced budget. Further information is available in the finance reports shared at the meeting. All accounts have been reconciled through February 25, 2021.

Around 20 attendees for today's conference still owe the \$10 registration fee. All registration fees collected from today's conference will be donated to the Optimist International Foundation.

Marvin Wastell asked if surplus dollars could support a second-place scholarship for this year's essay contest, and other scholarships this year. This item should be added to the next executive committee meeting agenda.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Essay Scholarship Contest Committee: Lana Urban is overseeing the contest for the third consecutive year. Thirteen essays, representing 13 clubs, have been received. She reported that students remain available for club sponsorships. She thanks those Nebraska clubs who have sponsored students this year.

Oratorical Scholarship Contest Committee: Gloria Epps is chairing this year's committee. She has spoken with several clubs to determine who would be interested in hosting a contest this year. The deadlines are March 27 for clubs to submit winners, and April 17 for zones to submit winners. May 1 is the final runoff contest for the Nebraska District. These dates have also been shared on the Nebraska District website and in the monthly email newsletter. The pandemic has also provided the opportunity for clubs to host oratorical contests virtually this year. Judging forms are available for clubs on the Optimist International website.

Growth Committee (Membership/Club Fitness/New Club Building): Mark Claussen reported that the committee has met a few times already. They are looking for more members to be involved. The plan is to work with Lieutenant Governors to support them and their clubs. The Committee is discussing membership retention, membership recruitment, and a needs assessment tool for clubs. The committee will meet with all Lieutenant Governors via Zoom on March 5.

Marketing and Communications Committee: Diane Siefkes, committee chair, thanked her committee members for their support this year. Members have experienced issues receiving emails from the Nebraska District. She encouraged all members to continuously check their spam folders. If emails never arrive, consider creating a new email address with Gmail or Yahoo, for example, where email filters are not as challenging. She also encouraged all club members to "like" the Nebraska District Facebook page, "like" the posts, and share them on their personal Facebook pages.

Leadership Development Committee: Mary Lou Anderson was excused from today's meeting. Governor Sandra asked for Lieutenant Governors to identify two club members to consider for the Catch a Rising Star program this year. She also mentioned that online LMS training for club presidents, club officers, and Lieutenant Governors should be completed by March 31.

Zone Alignment Committee: Governor-Elect Cindy Von Fange is planning a March 4 Zoom meeting for district leadership, club leadership, and all club members across Nebraska to discuss the potential of redistricting Nebraska zones. She thanked her committee members, who recently met on February 11. The meeting was to discuss district organization and improved communication. One idea: a new targeted partnership between clubs that have similar project focus and/or are similar in size of community. The goal is to strengthen

relationships between clubs and members in the district, that ultimately make a difference in our communities, the youth of those communities, and our members across the state.

Announcements:

Optimist International Convention: Immediate Past Governor and Optimist International Convention District Ambassador Linda Wheeler reported that the 2021 OI Convention -- June 29-July 3 in Atlanta, Georgia -- will take place in person. Registration is open; the early-bird fee is available through May 1. The registration form is available online.

The 3rd Quarter District Conference is April 30 and May 1. It will be held virtually. The \$10 registration fee will again be donated to the Optimist International Foundation.

The 4th Quarter District Convention is August 20 and 21 in Omaha. As of now, it will be held in person.

Submitted by Wendy Townley
Filling in for Interim Secretary, Carla Gries