

MWO DISTRICT BULLETIN

MWO Bulletin Editor: Marg Rapp: rapps@wightman.ca

October 2012
Volume 26 Issue 1

Message from Governor Jim

MWO Governor
Jim Dandy
115 Rennie Blvd. RR3
Fergus, Ontario
N1M 2W4
519-843-5142
jdandy@xplornet.ca

Fellow Optimists,

Welcome to the “Serve our Youth”, “Keep Them safe” Optimist year.

This year I would like all Optimists to focus on the fact that at the root of our existence we are first a SERVICE organization. We are an OPTIMIST organization because the focus of our service is the youth of our communities.



No organization remains static; it either grows or shrinks as time passes. Our group of busy hard working Optimist members often are unable to commit more time to the service of youth in their communities. The only way to grow in service is to increase our numbers, since the reduction in service is not what we desire. I ask you to do your best to increase the membership in all clubs so that the service we provide to the youth grows and more children are affected by the positive influence of their local Optimist club.

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I am also looking to the existing clubs to sponsor a new club where there is no club. Every club in this district was sponsored by an existing club when it was formed. There is no time like the present to extend that hand of friendship to a community without an Optimist club, so that even more children are served by this great organization.

Our first quarter board is fast approaching and we have a great slate of training forums on Saturday morning. The list of training opportunities consists of, Membership, New Club Building, HOBY, Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, and Childhood Cancer Campaign. There will also be further training for the Club Presidents, so please bring the Presidents work manual.

At the Leave a Legacy parallel district conference concluded last weekend, there was excellent training provided and we have one of the very best trainers in OI in membership chair Laura Barker. If you have not heard her presentations please make time to attend or presidents send your membership chair.

At the quarter board we will have our own International Vice President Lou Moss as a visitor, who will address the members. Lou is a wonderful person who will have a message that will help and inspire the members to greater achievements to bring out the best in kids, and deliver the message in her own theme “Leave a Legacy”

As our Lt. Governors make their rounds installing the club presidents and executive members, I ask the presidents to make sure that their ACPC forms are completed and a copy remains with the club for future reference.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the first quarter board November 3rd, held at the Four Points Sheridan in London.

Jim Dandy
Governor MWO 2012-2013

District Goals 2012– 2013

- * To increase our service to 3,500 children in areas serviced by our established clubs. (Note that each new member serves 35 children each year)
- * To serve %,250 children in areas where no Optimist exists today (Note that since each new member serves 35 children per year, with 6 new clubs of 25 members each we will reach this goal)
- * To have 100% of our clubs take part in a program helping children resist drug involvement.
- * To have 100% of our clubs take part or contribute to a childhood cancer program.
- * To have 100% of our members do their best to live by the creed.

[Serve Our Youth Keep Them Safe]

Childhood Cancer Campaign

Hello fellow Optimists, I am very pleased to serve as your CCC District Chair.

Please, please submit the name of your CCC club rep as soon as possible.

I try very hard to keep all the club reps “in the loop” with information about the Childhood Cancer Campaign and the Matching Grants program, and, having the email addresses of CCC club reps, certainly helps with communication.

The CCC funds are held in trust by the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation. In December the CCOF proposed that some of the funds be set into an endowment. A motion at the International Board meeting directed the Canadian Foundation to establish an endowment and work to grow the funds to \$1 000 000, which will provide perpetual funding for the Canadian Childhood Cancer Campaign. As a result, the endowment fund has been established with \$300 000 from the Canadian CCC funds.

The establishment of the endowment fund does mean that there will be less money available in the Matching Grants program, but clubs are still encouraged to apply for a grant for any project related to Childhood Cancer. Clubs just need to be aware that they may not receive the maximum amount requested. The application form for matching grants can be found on the OI website.

Please contact me at jackie.kinder@rogers.com or at 519 680 7182 and let me know how I can help you with your club’s Cancer Campaign fundraising and/or your Matching Grant application.



Remarks from Past Governor Ken

Greetings Fellow Optimists of Midwestern District

As we sit back filled with turkey and taking in all the beautiful colours of fall; it is a sign of a new Optimist year. I wish Governor Jim and First Lady Catherine all the best as they begin their “Serve Our Youth – Keep Them Safe” year!

Congratulations to Charter President Terry Koudys and the Optimist Club of St. Clements and Area. We welcome President Terry along with 15 new chartered members to our district. Thanks to the sponsoring clubs and the dedicated effort of the members who made it happen and organized the club on September 30th.

This year it is my duty as Immediate Past Governor to seek nominations for a candidate(s) interested in taking a leadership role in our District to occupy the position of District Governor in 2013/2014. This candidate (s) should possess leadership qualities and a desire to lead our District in a positive direction by encouraging membership growth and maintaining or improving the service to our youth and communities. This past year has been very rewarding to both Joan and I and we will cherish friendships and memories that will last for a lifetime. If you feel you possess the ability and leadership skills to meet this challenge I need to hear from you. If there is a member in your club or has served in the District and you feel they would be a good candidate please forward their name to me. Anyone with any questions about the requirements or the responsibilities of a Governor can contact me or a past Governor for assistance.

It is the responsibility of all our District members to ensure we have a responsible leadership team to lead our District into the future. We owe this to our youth and their communities!

This year I am also responsible to carry out the duties of International Convention Ambassador. As our year progresses I will update you with information pertaining to **Optimist International Convention which will be held in Cincinnati on July 4 – 6, 2013**. I have been fortunate enough to attend the last two International Conventions and found the experience very gratifying. Not only do you meet new Optimist friends throughout our great Organization, you become more knowledgeable from attending the general sessions and the various workshops. Anyone wishing to learn more about the upcoming convention is welcome to contact me by phone or e-mail (kenhayward@rogers.com). Stay tuned for future updates!!

In closing Joan and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all the Optimist members and the clubs for your support and invitations to your various functions. We have made many more friends and are amazed by all the hard work and commitment throughout our District to **“Bring Out the Best in Our Kids”**.

Yours in Optimism,

Ken Hayward
Immediate Past Governor

Optimist Essay Contest Month Dec.1 –31

Topic **“How Can I Help My Friends Realize their Value”**

Contact Natasha Longthorne nlongthorne@hotmail.com 519-485-6437

** note Number change **



HOBY NEWS

Dear Optimist Club Members,

Please help us help develop the leadership skills of our area grade ten students. How? Support the Western Ontario HOBY Three Day Seminar. We need financial support and we need volunteers to fulfill the role of Senior Group Leaders.

Many fellow Optimists have already enjoyed the distinct privilege of being a Senior Group Leader and the majority of our Optimist Clubs support HOBY annually. If you already support HOBY, thank you on behalf of our young people and the committee of volunteers that come together all year long to organize this annual three day event. If you do not, consider adding HOBY to your budget this year and consider becoming a senior group leader ~ trust me you will not regret this decision.

"If I could sum my letter up in a few words I would just explain that HOBY solidly proves that you aren't alone. It allows you to feel that you are not the only young person who is motivated for positive change, to be a strong leader and believe that youth are able to change the world they live in. If I had more time I would explain that HOBY gave its participants a chance to challenge themselves, create life-long bonds and develop as an individual." Emma

There is no cost to the individual student (ambassador) because of the generosity of our Optimist Clubs! However, there is a minimum cost to take care of each ambassador. That amount is \$350.00, which looks after the program, feeding them for three days and housing costs. Many clubs donate more than that, as they understand that we have a good number of schools that send students, that do not have a sponsoring Optimist Club.

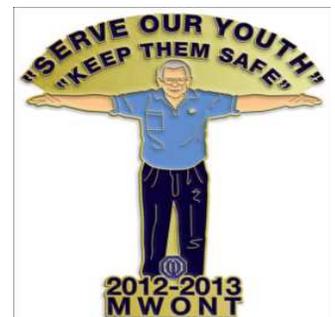
Please help, each and every donation is gratefully accepted! Clubs can bring their donation to the Quarter Board meeting or you can mail you cheque to me and I will ensure that your donation is delivered to our treasurer.

Optimist Catherine [mailing address: 27 Yarwood Street, St Thomas ON N5P 2Y2]

Catherine Herdman

Phone: 519.642.1879

Email: optimistcatherine@gmail.com





Race to the Finish !! Results

Congratulations to the following winners!!

Top Lieutenant Governor

Lieutenant Governor Larry High Zone 11
+ 8

Top Optimist Clubs

First: Optimist Club of Egremont Township + 4

Second: Optimist Club of New Hamburg + 3

Third: Optimist Club of Seaforth and District + 3



“Encourage Youth – Secure Our Future”



Midwestern Ontario District

1st Quarter Board Agenda

November 2, 2012



Four Points by Sheraton
1150 Wellington Road South
London ON
519-681-0600

Governor Jim Dandy
115 Rennie Blvd
Fergus ON
519-843-5142

AGENDA

6:30 p. m.

Social

- 7:00 p. m. Call to Order and Welcome.....Governor Jim Dandy
Introduction of Guests Governor Jim Dandy
Invocation and Toast.....Governor-Elect Karen Scott
DINNER
8:00 p. m. BREAK (partners leave with First Lady Catherine)
8:15 p. m. Recall to Order
Previous Minutes – motion to receiveDistrict Secretary Treasurer Elaine McLaren
Secretary Treasurers Report.....District Secretary Treasurer Elaine McLaren
2012-2013 Budget-motion to recommend to the Board.....Past Governor Catherine Herdman
2012 -2013 District Policies-motion to recommend to the Board.....Governor Jim Dandy
2012-2013 Achievements & Awards Program motion to recommend to the board Optimist Lynn
Bailey Chairperson
District Chair Reports:
New Club BuildingKeith North Chairperson
Membership.....Laura Barker Chairperson
Canadian Children`s Optimist Foundation.....Past Governor Warren Bechthold-
Quarter Boards and Convention.....Ann Tosheff Chairperson
Lieutenant Governors Reports (3 minutes each)
Zone 1.....Lt Gov. Elaine McLaren
Zone 2.....Lt Gov. Robert Dinsmore
Zone 3.....Lt. Gov. Gord Wood
Zone 4.....Lt. Gov. Don Hutchiso
Zone 5 & 9.....Lt Gov. Owen Minnie
Zone 6Lt Gov. Neil Driscoll
Zone 7.....Lt Gov. Al Bluhm
Zone 8.....Lt. Gov. Doris Haw
Zone 10.....Lt. Gov. Jon Underhill
Zone 11.....Lt Gov. Brenda Brgudac
Remarks from the Optimist International Guest.....O.I. Vice President Lou Moss
Closing remarks.....Governor Jim Dandy
Adjourn with the Optimist Creed



Midwestern Ontario District
 1st Quarter Board Meeting Agenda
 November 3, 2012

Four Points by Sheraton
 1150 Wellington Road South
 London ON
 519-681-0600

Governor Jim Dandy
 115 Rennie Blvd
 Fergus ON
 519-843-5142

7:50 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Registration (Hotel Lobby) Cost \$12.00 Lunch \$17.00

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Introduction of the day's activity.....

Kensington Room

Training Sessions as announced

1:15 p.m. Joint Board Meeting and General Session

1. Call to Order.....Governor Jim Dandy
2. Invocation and Toast.....Governor Elect Karen Scott
3. Introduction of Guests and Past Governors.....Governor Jim Dandy
4. Previous Minutes motion to receive.....Secretary Treasurer Elaine McLaren
5. District Secretary Treasure's Report.....Secretary Treasurer Elaine McLaren
6. Approval of 2012 – 2013 Budget.....Past Governor Catherine Herdman
7. Approval of 2012 – 2013 Achievements and Awards program.....Lynn Bailey Chairperson
8. Approval of District Policies as republished.....Governor Jim Dandy
9. Foundation Presentations.....Past Governor Sharon Ball Chairperson
10. First Lady's Presentations.....Optimist First Lady Catherine
11. District Chair Reports:
 - Membership.....Optimist Laura Barker Chairperson
 - New Club Building.....Optimist Keith North Chairperson
 - Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.....Past Governor Warren Bechthold Chairperson
 - Childhood Cancer Campaign.....Optimist Jackie Kinder Chairperson
 - Introduction of all other Chair People.....Governor Jim Dandy
 - District Convention and Quarter Boards.....Optimist Ann Tosheff Chairperson
 - Candidates Qualification and International Convention.....Immediate Past Governor Ken Hayward
12. Remarks from our Optimist International Guest.....Optimist International Vice President Lou Moss
13. Closing Remarks.....Governor Jim Dandy

ADJOURN WITH THE OPTIMIST CREED

Plan to attend the First Quarter Board November 3 in London at the Four Points Sheraton. The day will be filled with lots of great training, fun and fellowship. Hope to see everyone at our First Quarter Board.

Ann Tosheff
 District Convention Chair

Club Newsletters 2012-2013

This MWO District Bulletin Editor would be very happy to receive club bulletins from every club in Midwestern Ontario. They all include information that is interesting and that may be something I can share in the next MWO bulletin.

District Judging Criteria for Club Newsletter Submission 2012 - 2013

Front Page

- Masthead consistent monthly and includes the club name
- Date of Newsletter
- Optimist Logo and/or Club Logo or District Logo
- President's Name
- Secretary's Name
- Newsletter Editor's Name

Additional Pages

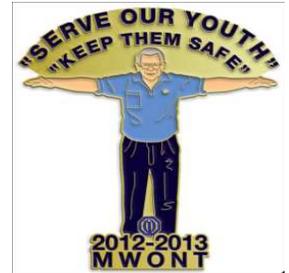
- Club Committee Reports I.e. Youth Activities, Fellowship
- International President's Logo and/or International Info
- District Information
- Zone Information
- Club Information
- Other

Content

- No Spelling Errors
- Easy to Read
- Good Use of White Space
- Graphics i.e. Clip Art, Photos, News Clippings etc.
- Use of Optimist Logos throughout the newsletter
- Overall Appearance
- Coming Events—Information well ahead of event date
- Humour in good Taste
- Recognition of Club Members
- Optimist Creed
- Club Executive/Committees

Judging will be based on a random selection of three (3) newsletters per club submitted during the current Optimist year, 2012—2013.

If you have questions please contact District Bulletin Editor, Marg Rapp at rapps@wightman.ca or 519-665-2137



A Smile for You

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realized, I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth
A single just like mine, could travel around the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!



President Chris Newman's PGI Talk delivered on Oct. 10, 2012 at her inaugural business meeting

I'd like to begin tonight by welcoming you to a new year in Optimism. I'd like also to take this opportunity to thank you, each of you, for being here. We all have busy lives. Sometimes there are other things we'd rather be doing, and yet we give what we can to this club. So, I thank you. Not only for freely giving of your time, and asking nothing in return, but actually paying to be a part of this.

It's funny. We tell people when they join the club that they can just give of their time as they are able, but then we ask for more. We need more. Our club has these great hopes and dreams of things we want to do, and we need people to make it happen. Sometimes, though we lose balance. No one here wants to see someone else fail, but we want our club to succeed. We need balance. I want to challenge each one of us this year. Give just a little bit more than you think you can. For example, maybe you like talking on the phone and like meeting new people. On the other hand you don't think you have time to contact a newspaper reporter to tell them about an upcoming event. If the only other people available have a phone phobia, it will take much less time and stress for you to make the call. You will have the call made before the other person even writes down what they hope to say, if they can even get up the nerve to make the call. Give what you can and then a little bit more.

But if you are already at the tipping point, and can't give anymore, all is not lost. The purpose of our club is to bring out the best in kids, to make their lives better, to give them a better life by enhancing the community in which they live. If we can do nothing else as a club this year, we can do that. I believe there is one simple rule to life. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I think the Optimist Creed is a great long version of this. Even if you don't get along with your neighbour, is there any part of the creed that you wouldn't want them to do?

I remember the first Optimist business meeting I attended. I was having a particularly hard time at work. I was fairly new to my job, just trying to fit into this new world. After reading the creed however, my outlook changed. Instead of focusing on the things that weren't working, I just kept focusing on the part "give every living creature a smile". Whether this made a difference or just gave me something else to focus on, I made it through and I have been employed for 11 years. Although they might just keep me around because I wear a goofy looking grin wandering around a dirty shop floor with some strange creatures. Even if I don't agree with them I can give them a smile.

If one smile can save someone from making a life or death decision, and that one decision impacts their whole family, their whole community, wouldn't it be awesome if you were the giver of that smile? If you can do only one thing for our club this year, I want this to be it. Pick out your favourite line of the creed. Just one line. Or if you are so inclined, the whole thing, and live that part out to the best of your ability. It can only make the community better. You and I might not always be the best at what we do, and this speech might have been all over the map, but if we don't try, we've already failed. Choose Optimism! Believe that today will be better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better yet!



Happy Halloween to all!

Marg



Optimist Websites:
Midwestern Ontario District: www.optimistmwo.on.ca

Optimist International: www.optimist.org

Optimist Leaders: www.optimistleaders.org.

Optimist Mail: www.optimistmail.org

Dates to Remember:

November 2 District Executive Meeting
November 3 First Quarter Board
December 1—31 Essay Contest Month
January Submit Second Quarter Optimist International Dues

Optimist International
President: J.C. St - Onge

Optimist International
Vice President: Lou Moss
Teammate: Dan
loumoss1@hotmail.com

MWO Governor: Jim
Dandy and 1st Lady Catherine



Optimist International Mission Statement

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



O,I, Canadian Service Centre
5205 Metropolitan Blvd. East, Suite 200
Montreal, QC H1R 1Z7
Tel.: 514-593-4401 or 800-367151
Fax: 514-721-1104

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 let all your friends know that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and let 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 to 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 happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International