

Midwestern Ontario District of
Optimist International

MIDWESTERN BULLETIN

December 2015 Edition



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Governor's Message:

What a start to the 2015-2016 year of "Optimist 4 Youth & Communities". We have now completed two months of the year, with many positive things happening in the District.

Our first major event of the Optimist Year was a visit from our Optimist International President Dave Bruns on his "Growth Surge Tour". President Dave, Vice President Anne Donkers, Benny Ellerbe, Executive Director from St. Louis, and Jacques Pelland, Senior Director from Montreal came to our District on Oct. 26th. I would like to thank all Optimist Members and Guests who came out to the meeting on October 27th.

The First Quarter Board Meeting was held at the Delta Armouries in London on November 6th & 7th. We had a good number of Optimist attend the training, and Board Meeting. It was nice to see some first timer's attend a Quarter Board Meeting. A special thank you to Past Governor Ken Hayward, Optimist Owen Minnie, Immediate Past Governor Elaine and Past International Vice President Warren Bechthold for your part in the training sessions at the Quarter Board Meeting.

I have enjoyed the many club events that I have attended the past two months, and thank the clubs for the invitation to attend. It is nice to meet the Members of the clubs and to hear about all the wonderful projects that are happening for the Youth in the different communities. I really appreciate all that the clubs do to make the Midwest Ontario District such a success and a positive impact on the Youth who are our future leaders. If you have an event that you would like me to attend just send the information and I will try to attend.

Welcome to the 32 New Optimist Members that have joined since October 1st, the Youth in the Communities Thank You for volunteering to be an Optimist member. Many clubs have plans to hold a Now Meeting in the next couple of months. Other ways to find New Members are to bring a prospective member to a club meeting or a club event that you are doing with the Youth in your communities, just some suggestions. Sometimes it is easier for the future member to see how the club meeting run, and to see what projects the club does with the Youth in the communities. Any Club that brings in four New Optimist before December 31st will receive a New Optimist Road sign. We have two clubs that have already added 4 plus members.

The New Club building team has been working at building New clubs in Goderich and Bayham Twp. If you have any names or contacts in these area, forward them to the New Club Building Team. Just think how many more Children we could serve with two New Clubs.

Merry Christmas and All the Best in the New Year!

Governor Doris



2014-2015

Be Counted For the Kids Wrap Up

I would like to thank all of the members of Midwestern Ontario District for their hard work and dedication in 2014-2015. Due to your efforts, our GREAT District met the requirements for a Distinguished District. This is an accomplishment that you should be very proud of! I look forward to seeing all of you at the 2014-2015 awards banquet to be held in March 2016 to celebrate all of your contributions in reaching this milestone. Further details of the banquet will be sent to the Clubs in January 2016.

Congratulations to Optimist Scott Whittle from the Optimist Club of New Dundee for sponsoring the most new members in the 2014-2015 Be Counted For the Kids Optimist Year. He invited 7 new Optimists into the New Dundee Optimist Club. On average, this will result in 238 more children being served in his community. His prize of a \$250 Via Rail Pass and a one night stay at the Festival Motor Inn, Stratford was presented at the first Quarter Board.

Immediate Past Governor Elaine

Candidates Qualifications

Have you considered putting your leadership skills to work? Midwestern Ontario District is in search of a Governor for the 2017-2018 Optimist year. If you have served or are currently serving as a Lt. Governor, you are qualified to put your name forward to fill this important role. If you would like additional information, please contact the undersigned or any Past Governor.

Immediate Past Governor Elaine

District Essay Contest

The 2015-16 Optimist Essay contest has the topic: Lead By Example- "Reality or Fiction."

The Club portion of the contest can be started now and should be finished in early February as the winning entry needs to be sent to your District chairperson **before February 28th**. All pertinent student info needs to accompany the winning entry.

The O.I. website for the Essay information and forms can be found at: www.optimist.org

District Essay Chairperson

Alan Bluhm

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Achievements and Awards - Spread the News!

All Optimist Clubs are working to "Bring out the Best in Kids". It is rewarding and may help to bring out the best in Optimists to have our efforts recognized.

Some of the activities are tracked and reported by MWO and O.I. officials. However, there are many activities and achievements which a club runs, that few of us know about.

Activities that are reported to MWO Directors, Lt. Governors and chairs of committees will be passed on but you can insure that they are received and counted by making sure I know about them. Send them to me yourself.

Please check the Achievements and Awards Program in Governor Doris Haw's Directory and report your activities, especially those in Section 4, Club Reports & Club Activities on page 43 to me at rapps@wightman.ca. I would rather hear about an achievement twice than not at all. In section 4.18, one point is awarded for each submitted copy of an advertisement of any kind for an event or activity (one copy per event).

Don't keep your good work a secret. Share it with your MWO Friends!

Achievements & Awards Chair

Marg Rapp



Zone 7 Report

This zone is busy building on membership and community events.

Cambridge West Club is sponsoring two free skates, one will be Dec. 13th at the Dixon Arena and the other in the New Year on Feb. 6th at Karl Holmuth Arena.

Kitchener South West Club is again very busy planning their New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance. Hope as many Optimists as possible can come out and join in bringing in another great year for the Kids. This club is also actively working on a web page, please check it out. Coming again in February they will be hosting their 2nd annual Spaghetti Supper to raise money for the Pioneer Park School free hockey program. If you have never heard about it, please ask one of the members, you will be impressed.

Kitchener - Waterloo Club events:

Respect for Law in May 2016.
Spelling Bee in April 2016.
Bike Rodeo in May 2016.
Elmira Maple Syrup Festival April 2, 2016.

Bug show June 10, 2016 at Camp Heidelberg.

Mercedes car show June 3, 2016 at Camp Heidelberg. Mopar fest August 20 & 21, 2016 in New Hamburg

Each weekend the camps are used by Guides, scouts etc. The Waterloo Board of Education runs its outdoor Education program out of Camp Heidelberg Monday to Friday during the school year.

Twin Cities Club has been busy teaming up with Waterloo Westvale preparing for this year's Essay,

Oratorical and Spelling Bee contests. Plans are also being made to take part in the Respect for Law program.

Waterloo Westvale Club have also been busy, and just completed one of the first events this year which was a beautiful float in the Santa Claus Parade. Great to see a great float spreading the word of Optimists to the Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge areas.

Waterloo North Club had one of their big fund raisers, Optimist Skate 48 take place on November 27th. This event was run with the help of the Conestoga Winterbourne Club from Zone 11.

Cheryl Patterson
Lt. Governor Zone 7



Zone 4 West Report

Woodstock Optimists have been busy getting their name out in the community by doing a car wash and a Trunk & Treat event. A very successful trivia night was also held.

Norwich Optimists finished their Corn Maze at the end of October, with attendance up overall. Their dinner/euchre nights started with the 1st one on Nov 27th.

Otterville Optimists are hosted a turkey bingo on Dec 1st and are busy with other activities.

Oxford Centre Optimists held another successful Halloween party with over 100 children attending, as well as parents and grandparents.

Gail Dolson
Lt Governor Zone 4 West

Zone 9 Report

It has been a busy few months in Zone 9. I have enjoyed getting out to the various club meetings, to meet the members and see how the different clubs conduct their meetings. I have visited all of the clubs except for one, so I hope to get to that one soon. I want to commend each club for the work they do for youth.

River East Park has done a great job of getting started as a new club. They held a community Halloween Party which was well attended by families in their area. Congratulations to the organizers on a job well done.

Zone 9 Report continued...

It was a fun evening at North London when I did the inductions. The meeting was combined with a Halloween get together, with many people coming in costume. They had their annual 'Breakfast with Santa' on Saturday, December 5. Special guest at North London Optimist's dinner meeting on January 19, 2016 will be Mitchel Brogan - Able Bionics; his inspiring story was publicized on Dragon's Den.

East London is gearing up to put a float in the 2nd annual Argyle Santa Claus Parade to be held on Saturday, December 12. Other projects on the go are 'Koats for Kids', a seniors Christmas light tour, donations for Ronald McDonald House and volunteering for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign.

On Saturday, November 28 the 9th annual Hyde Park Santa Claus Parade was held. Nor'West played a big role in the organizing of a very successful event. Nancy and I had a great time walking the parade route as did volunteers from North London and Oakridge.

Oakridge is planning their annual Trivia Night fundraiser in the New Year. This has been a very successful event in the past and we wish them all the best for another great night. They are also in the process of working with Jill Johnston who is involved with the 'Me to We' project, more information will follow. Please visit the website <http://www.metowe.com>.

Carling Heights held a book sale in November to raise money to help youth in the community.

I am sure I am missing some of the great projects that the clubs are working on and for that I do apologize.

In closing I want to wish everyone all the best for a great Christmas season and a great year of Optimism for 2016.

Jack McSloy
Lt. Governor Zone 9



Club News:

Optimist Club of Mornington: held a St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course on October 31 with 21 kids in attendance. A Youth Appreciation Night was held on November 17 at the Legion including a social, sub dinner and potluck desserts. Plaques were given out. Bingo is held twice a month. Santa Claus Parade is set for December 11. Optimist Kids Christmas Party will be held on December 13. The club is sponsoring free public skating on Dec. 13 and 20 in the afternoon.

Optimist Club of New Dundee: has signed up with Canadian Blood Services through their Partners for Life (PFL) program. Our PFL number is NEWD360457. This PFL # may be used by anyone (not just Optimist members) when donating blood. By using the PFL # your donation is tracked back to the community-ty of New Dundee. Through your donations of blood or by taking a swab for the Stem Cell Donor program you can help save a life. What a great way for us to help others! The 'Optibotics Club' has been quite successful in capturing the curiosity of eighteen young children and directing it towards discovering how science and technology impacts the world around them. The club features a real-world challenge, to be explored through research, critical thinking, hands-on building and imagination. They use utilize simple machines such as pulleys, gears, levers, wheels and axels and inclined planes to fulfill these assignments. Their Expo was held December 4th at Conestoga College, Cambridge where they presented their projects alongside other regional teams. An Adult Christmas Social is planned for December 18 and a Children's Christmas Party is planned for December 20. A Gingerbread Contest is also in the works for the youth of New Dundee and area. Children can design and build a Gingerbread House which will be displayed at both Christmas Parties. Gift baskets will be awarded to winners in each age category.

Dates to Remember:

December 1-31/15

Essay Contest Month - Topic: "Lead by Example"

January 1/16

Submit Second Quarter Optimist International Dues

February 1-28/16

Oratorical Contest Month - Topic: "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others"

February 19/16

District Executive Meeting in Kitchener-Waterloo

February 20/16

Second Quarter Board (Awards Banquet) in Kitchener-Waterloo

February 28/16

Deadline to submit Essay competition winners to District



Join the Normanby Optimist Cast for a drink at an Old English Pub on Sat. Feb. 20, 2016. Beware, murder may be in the air. Watch for details to follow in 2016!

Optimist International Presidents Message

As Optimists, we believe that the giving of ourselves in service to others brings out the **VERY BEST** in youth and in our local communities. Although we realize the world is far from perfect, Optimists work each day to make it a better place - one child and one community at a time. Truly, we are blessed to be involved in such a wonderful organization. It is our hope that by **waiving the New Member Fee for all new Members added between December 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016**, it will be easier for Optimists and Optimist Clubs to give the gift of Optimism to others who share our passion for helping children. In turn, it is our hope that this will strengthen our Clubs and - most of all - will result in Optimists serving even more children. In addition, I would encourage Clubs and Members to consider giving "Friend of Optimists" memberships to family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who - for whatever reason - are unable to join our Clubs.

Thank you for all that you give as Optimists to make the world a better place - **RIGHT HERE and RIGHT NOW!**

Wishing you health, happiness, and prosperity!

Dave Bruns

2015-16 Optimist International President



District Historian Information

Please send the 2015-2016 historical information for your club to Optimist Bob and Maily Keir at rwkeir@live.ca. Information can also be mailed to the address in the District Directory.

Did You Know?

Accounting for time zone differences, Santa Claus has thirty-one hours to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve, but that still means he has to visit 823 homes per second.



Save the Date



June 30-July 2, 2016

Plan to join your fellow
Optimists
at the

Hilton Quebec

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

A Bit of Humour

In a convent in Ireland, the 98 year-old Mother Superior lay dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her last journey comfortable. They tried giving her warm milk to drink but she refused it. One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen. Then, remembering a bottle of Irish whiskey that had been received as gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at Mother Superior's bed, they held the glass to her lips. The frail nun drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had finished the whole glass down to the last drop. As her eyes brightened, the nuns thought it would be good opportunity to have one last talk with their spiritual leader. "Mother,"

the nuns asked earnestly, "Please give us some of your wisdom before you leave us." She raised herself up in bed on one elbow, looked at them and said "DON'T SELL THAT COW!"

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 happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Christian D. Larsen



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