

Midwestern Ontario District of
Optimist International

MIDWESTERN BULLETIN

April 2016 Edition



Governor
Doris Haw

146 Parker Street West
Meaford, ON N4L 1M2
(519) 538-4284
rb.haw@bmts.com

Governor-Elect
Larry Haynes

45 Algonquin Cres
London, ON N5W 1N3
(519) 860-3434
larry.lavonne.haynes@gmail.com

Immediate Past Governor
Elaine McLaren

83 Norfolk Street
Stratford ON N5A 3Y7
519-272-1763
elaine.mclaren@sympatico.ca

Past Governor/Finance Chair
Karen Scott

115 Gibson St, PO Box 725
Lucan, ON N0M 2J0
519-227-1443
teddywalterpan@sympatico.ca

District Secretary/Treasurer
Wally/Anne Van Niekerk

6 Spruce Lane
New Hamburg, ON N3A 2G6
519-662-1754
awvannieke@gtto.net

Governor's Message:

Welcome to April and Spring is right around the corner, with lots of warm weather and sunshine. We have just finished the 6th month of the Optimist Year, time sure does go fast when you are having fun. I would like to thank all the Optimist Members for their support to the Midwest District, great things are accomplished when we all work together at "Bringing out the Best in Kids". I have enjoyed attending Club and Zone events and hearing about all the great things that Clubs are doing in their Communities for the Youth.

In the first 6th months we have added 129 New Members, and are at a -16 in Membership, and are number one in the Northeast Great Lakes Region. If we all work together I know that we can get to a plus in Membership. Many of the clubs that have added New Members are on their way to being an "Honour Club", let's add some more clubs to this group. All we need to do is "Just ask" someone to come to an Optimist Meeting or one of the events that the Club is doing in your Community.

Optimist International Honouring our Hero's Membership Drive - March 1st - June 30th. The three Hero Groups are - Teachers, (educators), - Law enforcement, (Public Safety Officers) - Veterans, and Active Duty Military Personnel. If you add a member from this group you can add the second one and not pay the International Dues for one year for the second member. You can add 3 Members and 3 free members per club under this program. More details on the Optimist International web-site (Honouring our Hero's - Details).

I would like to thank the Hospitality Team for organizing the Murder Mystery Dinner and Show by the "Normanby Optimist Club" on February 20th. Many Laughs, Good Food and lots of Great Fellowship. Thanks for the support of the Optimist Members and their Guests, and the Normanby Optimist Cast for making this an enjoyable evening.

Plans for the 3rd Quarter Board Meeting are underway and I hope that we have a good number of Optimist Members come out to the Oratorical Contest, these Young People are our "Future Leaders and Future Optimist Members", let's show our Optimist support.

The Fellowship Team has put together a "Mini Olympics" for the Optimist Membership to participate in before lunch. Plan your Club Team or Zone Team to have some fun at the Quarter Board.

Thanks to all the Optimist Members for their support of the District Team in the year of "Optimist 4 Youth & Communities"

Governor Doris

A FEW REMINDERS

Fellow Optimists;

April Invoice: Your 2nd Half MWO Dues Invoices will be emailed the week of April 11 – 15, 2016. Please pay promptly.

May 7: The 3rd Quarter Board will be held at the Doon Pioneer Park Community Centre, 150 Pioneer Drive, Kitchener, ON

May 20: Please be aware that your COER (Club Officer Elect Reports) are due by May 20th. Please hold your elections on time to meet the deadline.

COER's can be done online – see page 51 in your directory – or use a copy of the form on page 50 if you wish to send the 3 copies by Canada Post.

It is very important to get the information on time for printing the directory with the correct club executive contact information for the incoming MWO District Executive.

Thank you!!



Optimists 4 Youth & Communities

Optimist Wally / Optimist Annie

*MWO District Secretary/Treasurer
Team 2015-16*

District Essay Contest

The 2015-16 District Essay contest with the Title: Lead By Example "Reality or Fiction" has just been completed with thirteen entrants from across the Midwestern Ontario District. There were ten girls and three boys who made it through to the District competition.

The winning entrant who receives a Scholarship of \$2500 was: David Heikoop, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Norwich, the second place winner was: Anika Garg, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Oakridge Acres, London, the third place winner was: Avery Dolderman, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Centre Wellington-Fergus.

I would like to congratulate the winning entrants and thank all of the Clubs and their Chairpersons for their participation in the District Essay contest. It has been a pleasure working with you. Keep up the good work and maybe we will see more clubs participate next year.

District Essay Chairperson

Alan Bluhm

ahbluhm@hotmail.com



Zone 6 Breakfast Meeting

Hosted by the Moorefield Optimist Club

When: Saturday, April 30, 2016

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Moorefield Optimist Hall, 14 Ball Street, Moorefield.

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Come out and enjoy some good food and fellowship at our second zone meeting hosted by the Optimist Club of Moorefield. Share and discuss some of your accomplishments and challenges with your fellow club members within the zone. I will also be giving an update on the Spelling, Essay and Oratorical contests. Each club President or Designate will be given an opportunity to share what is going on in your club. Please keep your report to 3 to 4 minutes. I will also be conducting spring elections to determine a Lieutenant Governor to succeed me in the 2016/2017 year. I plan to complete our meeting by 11:00 a.m. so you have the remainder of the day to enjoy family.

Please have your club reply with the numbers attending to:

Lieutenant Governor Ken Hayward, Phone: 519-323-6283 or by e-mail:

kenhayward@rogers.com

R.S.V.P. by April 27

Zone 6 Report

Greetings Fellow Optimists,
The clubs and members within the zone have been busy supporting various functions within their communities. Many activities include supporting public skating, Easter Egg hunts, spelling contests, Maple Fest just to mention some. Our Zone held its Spelling Bee in Ayton on March 30 and five finalists are on their way to the District competition. One youth was sponsored for the Essay contest. Our current membership is at a net +4. I encourage our clubs to focus on bringing in new members to support their goal on achieving Honour Club. We experienced a good attendance at our Zone meeting on Feb. 7th sponsored by the Optimist Club of Arthur. Our next Zone meeting is scheduled on April 30th and is being hosted by the Optimist Club of Moorefield. We were saddened by the loss of Optimist Isabel Hayward who passed away on March 16th following a courageous battle with cancer. Optimist Isabel was an Optimist member with the Egremont Club for over 24 years.

Submitted by



Lieutenant Governor Ken Hayward

Zone 4 West Report

Norwich Club hosted 3 dinners for the public this quarter, with euchre after for those who indulge. They helped their elementary school raise over \$40,000.00 by cooking and serving a prime rib dinner with all the

fixings. Their annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Party was held with many eggs collected by eager youngsters and a free hotdog lunch for all.

Otterville Optimists hosted a successful ham bingo and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Woodstock is still looking for more members to join their small but committed group.

Gail Dolson

Lt Governor Zone 4 West

Zone 2 Report

Bayfield Optimist Club:

Completed - Sunday March 27 Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Clan Gregor Square

Sunday May 22 Rubber Duck Race Bayfield South Pier

Saturday June 11 Annual Golf Tournament Bayview GC

Sunday September 4 Run4Kids {Virtual High School} All proceeds to MakeAWish Huron County

Date TBD Witches Walk {The Ashwood}. All proceeds to Big Brothers Big Sisters North Huron

Sunday December 4 Location TBD Breakfast with Santa

Brussels Optimist Club:

They just had their annual Brussels Optimist Dinner and Auction in March where \$ was raised for the sunshine foundation of Canada and community betterment.

On April 13, they barbecued 400 burgers and dogs for Brussels Blyth Minor hockey banquet.

Up and coming events: they have their ball park and community sports field clean up at the end of April.

They also do several BBQ's every summer, ranging from 300-1000 steaks, pork chops, etc.

And every November they have their Harvest end stag night where they cook 500 steaks for a men's night with an auction as well.



Zone 2 Report continued...

Clinton Optimist Club:

Ice time was paid for the "March Break Free Skate" held March 14-18 from 1-3 pm for families with their children.

Spelling Bee was held April 2nd along with the Seaforth & District Optimist Club. Four contestants will attend the District Spelling Bee.

Donated money towards an event called ICE Day. ICE stands for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship and involves the skills of high school students. Two Optimist members will attend the event at the local High School.

Clinton Optimist Club is planning a fundraiser for childhood cancer along with the Clinton Legion. This is the 2nd Ride for Kids and will be held on July 23rd.

Seaforth & District Optimist Club:

Family Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction was held on February 12th. This was a fundraiser for the Seaforth Public School playground equipment.

Spelling Bee was held at the Seaforth & District Optimist Hall April 2nd along with the Clinton Optimists.

Currently selling tickets for the annual Silver Creek Duck Race on May 14th.

"Travel the World & Cash Lottery" is drawn once a month. Proceeds help fund the work of the Seaforth Club.

Lt Governor Robert Dinsmore

MID-WESTERN ONTARIO

OPTIMIST FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Put on by the Hospitality Team



Winner Receives A BBQ Dinner Up to 6 People





A time to sit back and relax
and enjoy a good BBQ Dinner.



Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$25.00

Where
THE WINNER'S HOME
Anytime between
Saturday, June 4, 2016 and
Saturday, August 13, 2016
Tickets Sold Members only

Optimist Governor
Doris Haw
519-538-4284

Optimist
Bill Adams
519-393-6759

Optimist
Mark Kerr
519-741-4755

Optimist
Anne-Tosheff
519-742-7080



Optimist International's Board of Directors has set a goal of 100,000 Members by the organization's 100th year in 2019. Your Club is urged to do its part in setting its own goal of increasing its membership between now and our 100 Year Anniversary. Help assure that your Club will be "Bring Out the Best" well into the future.

Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest

The new [Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest](#) will be **June 23-24** at Saint Louis University Center of Global Citizenship in St. Louis, Missouri. The event is designed to empower youth to become effective communicators and confident global citizens. The deadline to submit your District winner is May 15.



OPTIMISM SUMMIT & REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Optimists have been raving about the exceptional leadership training provided at the 2016 series of Optimist International Optimism Summits and Regional Conferences. There is still time to join an upcoming summit where you can meet International President Dave Bruns and share & network with fellow Optimists. Dates and locations for upcoming summits are: April 16 (Indianapolis), April 30 (Niagara Falls, Ontario), May 14 (Bloomington, Minnesota) and May 28 (Barbados). For event details and registration information, visit www.optimist.org

International Convention



QUÉBEC 2016

June 30-July 2, 2016

Plan to join your fellow
Optimists at the
Hilton Quebec

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

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

Mission, Vision & Purposes

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

Vision: Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

Purposes: To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

BULLETIN EDITORS: Dennis & Kathy Krysak katden@bell.net