

Special Interest Articles

Governor's Corner

The Oratorical Contest is on Steroids.

NOW Meetings

Foundation Follies

Camp Quality N.J.



Governor's Corner

Dear Fellow Optimists,

I am pleased to serve as your Governor for the 2015-2016 year.

I encourage each of you to share your leadership skills by increasing the number of Optimists in our District.

This initiative will enable us to bring out the **BEST** in the children we are blessed to serve. **Right Here Right Now!**

Thank you for devoting this year to serving the children

as a club, zone, district or international leader.

Even though you may not see results of your efforts immediately, I strongly believe everything we do will make a difference in the youth, adults and communities we serve.

Take some time to become familiar with our District directory. You will find key points of contact and the resources needed to support most any of your club projects and

programs. We are here to help you and your clubs.

We have appointed District chairs that are experts in their respective fields. Utilize this resource.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the 2015- 2016 year.

Yours in Optimism,

Delores Y Wright Ed.D
Governor 2015-2016
Atlantic Central District
delowrig@aol.com

Ol's Oratorical Contest is on Steroids

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The Optimist Oratorical World Championship Contest.

Topic for the contest
"How My Best Brings out the Best in Others"

Club Presidents and Oratorical Chairs contact Sue Creswell at sstav@ptd.net or call her at 610 721-4742. Sue is the acting District Oratorical Chair for

2015-16. If you are planning a club or zone contest and plan to send your Oratorical winner to the District Third Quarter Board Meeting and Annual Oratorical Contest. We need to hear from you with your intentions. The location and date for the Third Quarter Board will be **May 7th**

2016;

The Inn at Reading
1040 N. Park Rd.
Wyomissing, PA 19551.

Clubs and Oratorical Chairs do not let your kids miss out on this terrific program.





This is "Oratorical on steroids" according to acting oratorical chair Sue Creswell. "

OI's Oratorical Contest Continued...

This is not your regular run of the mill ho hum Oratorical event. This is "Oratorical on steroids" according to acting Oratorical chair Sue Creswell. "There is serious scholarship money on the table for the winner of the District, Regional and International contests".

Not only is there a lot of money on the table let's not forget about the benefits this program offers our contestants.

- Empowering youth to become effective communicators
- Provide a learning experience resulting in greater self confidence
- Assist youth with the cost of higher education
- Meet other young people

OI's Oratorical Contest Continued ...

Each Optimist club or the winners of an Optimist Zone sponsored Oratorical event are welcome to send one contestant to the Atlantic Central Oratorical Contest to compete for one of three cash prizes. Please note this is a unisex event. We will

not offer a separate boys and girl's competition as we have in the past.

1st Place \$2,500
2nd Place \$ 1,500
3rd Place \$ 1,000.

The sponsoring club must be in good financial standing with both Optimist International and the

Atlantic Central District. The sponsoring Club is responsible for completing the required enrollment form, provide proof of age for your competitor and a check in the amount of \$ 40 payable to the AC District.

OI Oratorical Contest

Each Optimist District will have the opportunity to send one winner to St. Louis to compete with the winners from the eight other Optimist districts and a chance to win

\$ 5,000 in scholarship money. The winner of the Regional competition will advance to the International level and compete for

\$ 15,000, \$ 10,000 or \$5,000 in World Championship Scholarships. We need to hear from you. Please reach out to Sue sstav@ptd.net.

New Optimist Welcome (NOW)

International Vice President, Anne Donkers at the AC District 1st Quarterly Board meeting shared her insights on how to run a successful NOW meeting.

First and foremost clubs need to understand the importance of growing their membership. The advantages include.

- New ideas
- Renewed energy
- Succession through the leadership chairs
- Service well into the future.

Optimist International has a goal of 100,000 members by our 100th year anniversary. Is this manageable? You bet it is if all the clubs participate and set a goal of membership growth

One of the best ways to reach your membership goals is by utilizing NOW meetings (New Optimists Welcome). There is no need to re-invent the process. Visit the Optimist Leaders web site www.optimistleaders.org and download the step by step process in order to plan and implement a successful event.

Get creative, welcome new potential Optimists over wine & cheese or simple snacks. Just plan it and get going.

Need help contact Laneika Harris, District Membership Chair. laneikat@aol.com



Foundation Follies

Contact your District OI Foundation Representative Scott Pinheiro at scott21857_80@msn.com or by calling 732 754-8865.

The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) was established in 1971 exclusively for charitable, literary and educational purposes of Optimist International a community service-based organization committed to creating a more optimistic future for young people through innovative programs. OIF

works with Optimist Clubs in over 2100 communities in the United States and the Caribbean. The Foundation has grown steadily since 1971 and is a recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Find out how you and your club can support this Optimist Institution by calling your District OI Representative today.

Scott Pinheiro
(732) 754-8865

Are you interested in supporting the Optimist International Foundation?

Do you need the facts about OI Foundation Programs?

Are you curious about programs, recognition levels and where you or your club stands?

Meeting Dates Report



Meeting Dates Report
2015-2016
September 24, 2015
Atlantic Central District of Optimist International
Governor Designate Delores Y. Wright, Ed. D.

Date	Location
First Quarter Board Meeting October 2-3, 2015 Vice President-Region 1 Anne Donkers	Holiday Inn East Windsor 399 Monmouth Street East Windsor, NJ 08520 609-448-7000
Second Quarter Board Meeting February 26, 2016 (The Inn at Reading Hotel- Executive Committee Only) February 27, 2016 (Adelphi Kitchens Factory-District Teleconference)	The Inn at Reading Hotel 1040 N. Park Road Wyomissing, PA 19610 610-372-7811 Adelphi Kitchens Factory 303 E. First Avenue Robesonia, PA 19351 610-693-3101
Third Quarter Board Meeting May 6-7, 2016 (Annual Oratorical Contest) (Annual CCDHH Contest)	The Inn at Reading Hotel 1040 N. Park Road Wyomissing, PA 19610 610-372-7811
Fourth Quarter Board Meeting and Convention August 26-28, 2016 (Joint District Convention with Maryland-Southern Delaware) Optimist International Convention June 30-July 2, 2016	Aspire Gettysburg Hotel 2534 Emmisburg Road Gettysburg, PA 17325 717-334-2755 Quebec City Convention Centre HQ Hotel: Hilton Quebec 1100 Boulevard Rene-Levesque Est. Quebec City, Quebec Canada 1-418-647-2411

Please note the Second Quarter Board Meeting February 26th is for the Executive Committee Only. It will be followed by a Tele-Conference on Saturday February 27th for all Club Presidents and Interested parties. Dial in Information and passwords will follow. Visit the AC-District website for additional details.

www.optimist-ac.org



Scholarship Contests

Optimist International sponsors three scholarship contests for students to earn money to pursue opportunities in higher education: the communication contest for the deaf and hard of hearing (CCDHH), the Essay Contest and the Oratorical Contest. The contests start at the club level, then Zone and District level. District level scholarships are funded by the Optimist

International Foundation and awarded by Optimist International.

For more information on these programs contact your District committee chairs or visit the OI website.

www.optimist.org/programs/scholarships

Scholarship Contests Cont.....

The Essay Contest requires students under 18 as of October 1, 2015 to compose a 700-800 word essay around a central idea. The contest is designed to develop writing and critical thinking

skills. One scholarship of \$ 2,500 per District is awarded by Optimist International each year.

The Oratorical Contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1,

2015. Students are required to prepare a 4-5 minute speech on a pre-assigned topic. The contest is designed to assist youth in gaining public speaking experience and provide them with the opportunity

to compete for scholarship money.

Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is designed to help develop skills and confidence to present in sign or orally to a group.

AC District Photo Contest

Are you the next Ansel Adams, photographer extraordinaire? Are you bored and tired of shameless selfies and Facebook posts? Put that I-phone or camera to good use.

Join your local Optimist Clubs annual photo contest. Or, send your submission directly to the AC District.

Simply take photo that best represents a line form the Optimist Creed. And join the competition.

Club photo contest chairs please coordinate your

project with Todd Culbreath (Dream Builders Club) (610) 277-2680n or e-mail at toculbrea@aol.com

The AC District competition will take place at the 3rd Quarter Board Meeting May 6-7 2016.

Contact your local Optimist Club, visit our web site www.optimist-ac.org or call our photo contest chair Todd Culbreath for details.



Hit us with your best shot.

Take a photo that represents a line from the Optimist Creed for the entire world to see.

Stock Market Challenge

The Sunrise Optimist Club of Freehold, NJ will again offer their annual Stock Market Challenge.

For the last few years the Sunrisers have sponsored a stock market challenge for middle schoolers in the Freehold area.

Teams are assigned and awarded \$ 10,000 to invest in their favorite stocks. Each week starts with a presentation by financial professionals on related topics then the kids are free to pick and choose their respective holdings for the week.

Performance is measured based on a prior days close and the winners at the end of a six week program are awarded prizes.

As part of the program a field trip to the NYSE and Federal Reserve Building in NYC is hosted by the Optimist Club.

Last year the winning team grew their portfolio by 30% on an annualized basis.

The popularity of the event has outgrown

one venue "we are getting between 50-70 kids" according to Brian Furie the Sunriser who was responsible for putting the program together. "We have moved to a larger facility to accommodate the larger group of kids".

This program is both educational and a lot of fun for both the kids and the mentors.





"Need some additional Cash for College. Consider the Optimist Essay Contest

District Essay Contest

Club Presidents and Essay Chairs are you planning an essay competition this year.?

Please coordinate your efforts with Lisa Hoey from the Stroudsburg Club. She is the AC District Essay Chair. She can be reached at (570) 688-7396 or lisa.hoey@cancer.org

We need to know if are

planning an Essay contest so we can anticipate a submission for your winner in the District contest.

District level prize is a plaque and \$ 2500 college scholarship for 1st place winner.

Not planning a contest? How about sponsoring an Essay participant, we have students who are making

inquiries and do not have a local club or contest planned near them.

All Essays must be submitted by February 26, 2016 with a completed application and entry fee.

Send to: Lisa Hoey c/o American Cancer Society 2158 W. Main Street Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Dues are Due

Your club should have received you dues bill from Optimist International, if not it is available on-line. [www.optimistleaders.org] Log in and go to invoices and you print it as well as pay online.

Please note that your bill includes not only OI dues but also the first

quarter Atlantic Central Dues billing. You only need to write one check to Optimist International to cover dues for both Optimist International and The Atlantic Central District.

Please send both International and District Dues to Optimist International.

You will not receive a separate bill from the District. **Unless you owe dues from last year.**

Going forward you will be billed for District Dues Quarterly along with your International Dues.

Lancaster CASA Bag's Help Kid's

The Optimist Club of Lancaster received an OI Foundation Grant for this innovative community service project.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) needed age appropriate bags filled with toy's and crafts for children of families in crisis. This would allow volunteers from the courts

when visiting these families to have something for the kids when working with parents during what could be a difficult period for many.

The Lancaster Club came up with the project. They completed a grant request with the OI Foundation and received funding. Ordered the bags and filled them

with paper crayons, color pencils and crafts. They partnered with a local Eagle Scout who built shelves at the CASA location to store the bags. They concluded with a toy drive in an effort to fill the bags. In all they filled and delivered 122 bags to an elated CASA staff and volunteer group.

Camp Quality USA, New Jersey

Founded in 2003 Camp Quality of New Jersey (CQNJ) is an IRS recognized 501C charity. The organization provides year round support for children who have cancer or are in remission. It focuses on the emotional needs of these youngsters by creating safe, stress-free environments fostering courage and motivation and facilitating friendships.

The highlight of the year is a

week long summer overnight camp program located in Blairstown, NJ. In 2016 the camp will be held from August 12-18.

Our companions are the lifeblood of the camp. They are round the "clock caretakers", this in addition to the camp staff and medical team who are available 24/7 to address any health issues that occur.

CQNJ will hold its second annual gala at the Imperia in Somerset, NJ on Friday August 29th.

Through generous donations CQNJ provides its programs at no cost to the families.

For more information contact Al Passy Executive Director, CQNJ.

Al.passy@campqualityusa.org



"Our companions are the lifeblood of the camp they are the round the clock caretakers for our campers"

AC District Welcomes a New Club

Governor Delores Y. Wright announced the addition of a new club to the AC District.

On October 19, 2015, the Atlantic Central District gave birth to a new club in Wilmington, DE. The name of the club is **First State Optimist Club**. It represents

the only Optimist Club in the State of Delaware this according to Builders of Excellence Gov. Wright, Gov. Elect LaVera Seymour, Lt. Gov Kenneth Seymour and Dee Cerwood.

The new club president Allegra Moses welcomed

dignitaries from the District to the induction of the new board of directors of First State.O.C.

The entire AC District welcomes First State and offers best wishes as they strive to Bring Out the Best in Youth in our communities and ourselves. Right here, Right Now

Go to Meeting Dates

Meeting Dates, 2015-16

We have found Sunday evenings to be the most opportune time to gather as a group for our "Go to Meeting" events. Many have concluded the family commitments of the weekend and mentally are preparing for the week ahead.

This is a great opportunity to put your Optimist Club front and center.

Go-To-Meetings are once a month on the third Sunday of the month. These sessions run from 7:00- 8:00 pm

December 20, 2015

January 17, 2016

March 20, 2016

April 19, 2015

June 19, 2016

July, 17, 2016

September 18, 2016

Atlantic Central District

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Just Do It!

Go to Meeting

One of our missions as a District is to provide timely information and communicate important Optimist information as it evolves.

We are a large District spread out geographically. Travel is often time consuming and difficult especially during the

winter months. We have in the past and plan to continue to use "Go to Meeting" to communicate important Optimist information. Club Presidents and Executive Committee members On **Saturday morning February 27, 2016** our Q-2 board meeting will

be a go to meeting event.

Dates times and dial in information will be posted two weeks prior. Check the AC District Web site. www.optimist-ac.org

It is important that you utilize this important resource.

About Our Organization

The Atlantic Central District's mission is to provide resources, leadership, and training. We do this in an effort to help our clubs grow their membership, spread the Optimist Creed and thrive

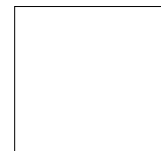
in their efforts at "bringing out the best in kids".

How can we accomplish this goal? by providing the most experienced Optimist leadership, by offering ongoing training at our

quarterly conferences, through regular communication and access to the International web site.

www.optimistleaders.org

AC DISTRICT
SCOTT PINHEIRO
14 HELEN DRIVE
DAYTON, NJ 08810



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.Optimist-ac.org

CUSTOMER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE