



# Kansas District Optimist

*News for Members to Use*

Volume 48 Issue 12

September 2008



Greetings from your Governor and First Lady.

This will be your last newsletter from us as your Governor and First Lady. The next epistle you get will be from your 2008-2009 Team headed by Peggy Ingles.

September has the last thirty days of the longest year since 2004 - we had

366 days to bring in new members, build new clubs and help thousands of new children throughout our great state of Kansas! And we still are only the Kansas District! Having successfully gone past the merger mess, we are now racing to the end of the Ad Astra/Heroes Year and toward the Kansas Kan/Give Me 5 Year.

As Peggy pointed out at our convention, if each club brings in two new members in September and retains (or replaces) existing members, the Kansas District can end the year on the plus side and be poised to really grow in the coming year.

We had a great time at the International Convention and figured those who were not able to attend should see your 'first couple' as they attended the old timer's lunch. The theme was western, so that's why we are wearing the hats. The table favors were neckerchiefs which you see wrapped around my throat. I did win the centerpiece - a toy corral with horses, etc. - which we gave to our great-grandson when we came home.

Kansas District Convention, August 15-17, 2008, was a resounding success. Attendance numbers were greater than expected but less than the record set in the past. The reported attending numbers were: Governor, Governor elect, Past Gov's 12, Foundation Rep, District S/T, Lt Gov 5 of 6, Lt Gov Elect 5 of 8, Committee Chairs 21 of 27, Presidents 11 of 60, President Elect 10 of 60, Club S/T 8 of 60, Club S/T Elect 6 of 60, Clubs 35, Optimists 99, Guests 12, and Youth 2.

Activity actually started on Thursday with the Past Governor's Dinner. From out of the past we saw Donald Sheriff (1974-1975) and Clyde Bailey (1976-1977). We also saw two past governors who are not currently active Optimists: Jon Ehram (1986-1987) and John Goyette (2002-2003). Two visiting past governors from out of the District were International Vice-President Chris Jernigan and International Vice-President Designate Tom Hill. Your governor and first lady met each of them at the airport and got them to the hotel. Spouses were also present including Chris' wife Marlene Jernigan. Tom's spouse was visiting Grandchildren - a higher priority function.

Friday morning started with registration followed by training. Leadership Development Chair Ruth Nelson had assembled an outstanding faculty. Morning teachers included President-Elect Peggy Ingles, Club President Jane Harris, Olathe Member Debbie Doll, Past Governor Ruth Nelson and International Vice-President Chris Jernigan. An additional guest speaker was International Vice-President Designate Tom Hill - our Vice-President next year.

Registration was reopened for the noon hour as attendees had "lunch on their own". Due to a loss in communications, the Hospitality Room was not ready for customers. The afternoon training session was expanded to include Lt Governors' and Club Presidents' combined. Presenters scheduled included: David Parks, Kieth Bodine, Jeff Suddreth, Kit Kelley, Anna Keena, Gaye Erwin, Larry Drbal, Jane Harris, Leslie Caldwell, Nancy Foster, Cecil Cunday, Jim Smith, Ruth Nelson, Jim Morris, and Dennis Young. Additional input was received from Chris Jernigan and Tom Hill.

While members of the North Wichita Club worked the registration desk from 4:00 to 7:00 for late comers, many of us drove out to the Warren Farm south of Derby, to partake of Cecil Cunday's famous Lasagna Dinner for Optimist International Foundation. The dinner was a sell-out and the "blind" live auction that followed raised significant funds for OIF. After the auction, many of the attendees accompanied the "Ruth Nelson Walk for Childhood Cancer Campaign". Due to the probability of mosquitoes in the area, your governor elected to stay inside and just present the donation from the Wichita North Club to Ruth. No final figures are available at this time, but the fund raising was a success.

Saturday morning started with registration and then the meeting of the Executive Committee. Secretary/Treasurer training was hosted by Past District S/Ts Charlie Galligher, Cecil Cunday and Clara Herbal. Clara took time out to orient the "first timers who were attending. In another room, Lt Governor training began with a stellar crew of trainers including: Kit Kelley, Peggy Ingles, Debbie Doll, Rod Obermeier, Ruth Nelson, Tom Hill and Chris Jernigan. The center room provided a District Chair workshop and a Communications workshop for all members. A "Meet Your VPs" scheduled was pre-empted by their continued use as trainers with the Lt Governors and other attendees. Although the training sessions have labels identifying the object of the training, ALL MEMBERS can gain significant knowledge by attending any session. Those who may aspire to a leadership position in the future should attend all the training sessions possible.

The Awards Luncheon with International Vice Presidents was well attended. A number of awards were presented including some PGI rings, a Ten Member pin to Peggy Ingles, recognition of first timers and those who achieved Gemini Astronaut status by bringing in a second member during the April to July period. International Vice-President Chris Jernigan was the guest speaker for the luncheon. Chris discussed many aspects of optimism and passed a challenge to all in the District to bring in new members before September 30. Chris has promised one of his 'limited edition' HEROES Pin for each member who brings in a new member during the remainder of the Heroes/Ad Astra year. We have twenty-five pins on hand and Chris has guaranteed more if we can earn them.



The first session of Convention Business approved the third quarter minutes and financial report. The nomination from the Candidate Qualification Committee was presented and additional nominations from the floor were requested. Hearing none, Past Governor Ruth Nelson moved the nominations cease and Rod Obermeier be elected by acclamation. District Policy updates were considered. Issues one through thirteen were passed with little discussion and a couple of amendments (Issue eleven was replaced by amendment). Issue fourteen was tabled. Three additional issues were also passed (refer to the minutes on line). The amended policies have been signed and forwarded to OI for Board approval (they have to approve them). Ruth Nelson was called to present the draft of a District Long Range Strategy Plan. The plan was approved by the membership. The meeting was recessed right on time.

The membership gathered for a reception honoring our two visiting VPs and our special speaker. After a promenade of the current and future District Officers and the Governor's Banquet, an interesting and informative talk was presented by our keynote speaker, Dr. Daria Davidson. The meeting concluded with remarks from VPs, Governor Designate Peggy Ingle and your Governor.

Sunday activity started first with Chaplain Joe Voss remembering those Optimists who had died during the past year. Joe continued with a very pointed message of hope, perseverance, and helping youth. Sunday breakfast remembered those past governors present who had pre-registered for the convention by having them at the head table and giving them each a 8x11 cloth flag of their personal Governor's Logo.

Wrap up session of the convention recognized the A&A leading club for the third quarter, the "Fab Four", an OIF report, presenting certificates to the "Full Timers" as described in the District Recognition Handbook, and the "raffle" of the 32 inch flat screen TV by our Childhood Cancer Campaign Chair. Cecil Cunday was the winner of the TV. He immediately announced it would be "raffled" again next year (he will be the District Foundation Representative). After a few concluding remarks, the convention was declared closed.

A sad note on the convention - the club that hosted the Hospitality Room reported that 'donations' were at AN ALL TIME LOW relative to the amount of participation and consumption in the "Control Tower" Hospitality Room. Any members that would like to assist the host club by providing additional funds may send cash or checks to your Governor who will pass them to the club. Make checks payable to "O.C.F.W." and they will be deductible.

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#### **START PLANNING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS EARLY**

The scholarship contest topics for 2008-2009 have been determined, and it's never too early to start planning. The topics for this coming year are: Essay Contest - "The Power of Youth"

Oratorical Contest and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - "For Me, Optimism is ..."

The topics were chosen by the International Marketing, Programs and PR Committee and the JOOI Board and approved by the Optimist International Board of Directors.

The planning guides for the contests are now available on the Optimist website, [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org). Each contest has a packet for the Club Contest Chair and the District Contest Chair. The guides include the rules, an application and all the forms needed to run the contest.

Take this opportunity to contact the schools in your area and ask them to make contest entry part of their students' coursework. Talk to local youth groups and encourage them to compete for the chance at a college scholarship. Contact the school board and obtain a list of home-school students to invite to compete in the contest.

## **Special \$1 Per Member Assessment Approved by Convention Delegates July 8, 2008**

Club delegates at the International Convention in Grapevine, Texas, approved a one-time \$1.00 per Member special assessment to balance Optimist International's 2008-2009 budget. This assessment will be included on the billing that goes to all Clubs at the beginning of the first quarter of the 2008-2009 year.

The International Board of Directors had proposed a suspension of the \$1.00 per Member that Optimist International allots to each District for the 2008-2009 fiscal year in order to balance the budget. But a substitute motion was offered from the floor that called for assessing each Member an additional \$1.00 in 2008-2009 only. This motion was approved by the delegates representing Clubs from throughout the organization and the dues allotment suspension was not considered.

Delegates also approved a one-year suspension of the so-called "4% Rule" in the Bylaws that requires the Board to budget for a 4% surplus each year.

Both actions were needed to balance the 2008-2009 Optimist International budget and avoid program, service and personnel cuts. The fiscal concerns are the result of a continuing loss of membership and Clubs, as well as new U.S. Government regulations mandating the full funding of defined benefit employee pension plans within seven years. Optimist International's plan, while suspended in 1997, is still required to be fully funded in order to meet future obligations. This unfunded amount requires an annual expenditure of \$225,000.

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### **Showcase Your Club's Service**

To be named an Honor Club for the 2007-2008 Optimist year, all Clubs must submit the President's Pride Report and conduct at least one service project. One of the requirements to being named a Distinguished Club is to complete a minimum of 5 service projects by September 30, 2008.

Clubs are able to designate completed service projects on the President's Pride Report. The form is available to be filled out online on the Optimist Leaders website ([www.optimistleaders.org](http://www.optimistleaders.org)) and to be printed and completed by hand on the Optimist website ([www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)). Only service projects listed on submitted President's Pride forms will qualify for recognition.

To complete the form online, log on to the Optimist Leaders website and click on the "Reports" button on the right side of the screen. Then click on President's Pride Report on the list that opens.

Under each question are boxes that can be checked with a click of the mouse to indicate that your Club participated in that activity. On Section B, type a short description of each of the service projects conducted by your Club during the 2007-2008 year.

The "Save" button will allow your Club to enter and change information on the report on a periodic basis until the Club is ready to submit the form and data in its entirety. When you are filling in your dollar amounts, please round off to the nearest dollar and be sure to hit the "Save" button or you will lose the dollar figure!

When the Club has completed the form by filling in the data for the entire Optimist year, click on the signature button and then click "Submit." Once the "Submit" button has been clicked, you will be unable to change or add information to the form. The form will be sent electronically to the Optimist International office. If you choose to mail or fax the form, please make sure to include your signature on the third page. The form is due no later than September 30, 2008.

**91st Optimist International Convention  
July 8-11, 2009 Florida**

The 2009 Optimist International Convention is on its way to the Sunshine State, one of the best attraction locations in the U.S., probably the world! Mark your calendars for July 8-11, 2009! Come early/stay after - hotel rooms are available as long as they last!

100% Smoke Free - Experience the sun like never before. Imagine a resort experience that brings to life the best of the Sunshine State. Few other places can summon such an immediate response as the atrium of Gaylord Palms' Resort & Convention Center. You'll be awestruck by the resort's signature glass dome, where the Florida experience is showcased in all its glory, from the history and old-world charm of St. Augustine to the colorful and festive island spirit of Key West, to the mysterious waters and cypress of the Everglades.

**Registration**

To download a Convention Registration Form, go to [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).

[www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) also has the link for making a housing reservation for the 2009 Convention at the Gaylord Palms, July 8-11, 2009.

**Housing**

To make your hotel reservation, check out this website link at the Gaylord Palms created just for Optimist International or call the Gaylord Palms today at (407) 586-2000 and be certain to ask for the Optimist International block of hotel rooms to get the group rate.

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**Letter from Presidents of OIF and OIFC**

Hundreds of Clubs have already made a contribution to the Optimist International Foundation this Optimist year. The good news is that those Clubs that have contributed have made a difference with their contributions:

- \* They have helped fund scholarships for essay, oratory and CCDHH contests.
- \* They have supported youth leadership and service through JOOI.
- \* They have aided Optimist International programs including the Childhood Cancer Campaign and Junior Optimist golf.
- \* They have allowed OIF to support OI marketing efforts, pension service, and the establishment of a new grant program for Clubs.

To those Clubs that have made a gift this year -- a big thank you. Clubs are a vital part of the Foundation's support. President Theo has recognized that with his "Peace Be the Journey" theme and will provide a banner patch to Clubs that have given at least \$500 unrestricted to their Foundation this year.



OIF has set a goal to reach \$1 million in UNRESTRICTED gifts this year. At the end of July, we were still \$190,000 from the goal -- within sight, but still a stretch. If your Club has not yet contributed, it is not too late to be part of this historical achievement of reaching \$1 million UNRESTRICTED.

OIFC has set a goal of reaching an unrestricted gift total five percent higher than last year. OIFC is on track to meet that goal -- if the last two months of the fiscal year keep pace with last year.

Again, Clubs are the lifeblood of the Foundations' support -- and the Foundations are pleased to assist Clubs without charge for a variety of services from Pass Through/Outsourcing to endowments and Club Campaign funds. If you have given this year, please convey an enormous thanks to your Members. If you have not yet contributed in support of the Foundation, please consider a gift before September ends. **Please join us in Helping Optimists Help Kids!**

**Charlie Galligher says: Here is an article that appeared in the Topeka Capital-Journal.**

The Sunrise Optimist Club has been serving the youth of north Topeka for more than 40 years. Through the years, the club has expanded to meet the demands of its youth programs. But an increase in enrollment in the summer baseball/softball program is creating a need for expansion once again. Steve Schiffelbein, director of the club's sports programs, explains the need for expansion.

**Tell me a little bit about the Sunrise Optimist Club?**

We're one of the oldest clubs in the state. We were founded in 1962, the basketball program started in 1964 and baseball started in 1968.

Because of how this league has been financed, it really is a north Topeka league. It's a north Topeka community event. But that's what the optimist club is all about, it's a friend of youth.

**Why is there a need for expanding the facilities?**

This last year we had an enrollment of 774, and there were 67 teams total. But it's the T-ball teams that need expansion. Made up of preschool, kindergarten, and first graders, there were 324 in the T-ball program. That's 30 teams and we have room for 32. Well, we have people come in after the registration deadline, and we don't have sufficient room for all the late additions.

**What type of expansion is the club trying to accomplish?**

We're looking at adding one T-ball diamond, which would give us a total of three T-ball and three softball sized diamonds. With another T-ball diamond, we're looking at going from 30 to 40 teams. We're looking at adding about 90 to 100 players.

We also might consider expanding the parking lot to accommodate the additional traffic.

**Why would the expansion only be for younger players?**

We have sufficient capacity in our older leagues. Essentially what happens is when kids get older they develop other interests, and kids specialize in certain sports as they get older. It's not unusual for enrollment to drop off as they get older.

We are what we call a recreational league. If you want to play two-three games a week, there are other leagues in town, SCABA, Ken Berry, the Lake (SCGSA) for softball, Dornwood. Essentially we don't keep scores or standings, except for our older kids at the tournament at the end of the year.

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**Sunset Optimist club of Topeka Spotlights:**

**Arnol Jack**— Arnol is our new president elect. He is a fairly new member and has worked his professional career in developing activities for youth.

Arnol Started the "Cool Summer Playground" summer pro-gram. This program was developed to give youth in low income areas a chance to have fun summer activities in their neighborhoods. When Arnol developed this program it was a FREE program at area elementary schools. Cool Summer was at different sites throughout Topeka and serviced hundreds of youth.

One parent wrote Arnol a letter thanking him for keeping her child off the streets and in somewhere positive where she could see him having fun. The Sunset Club was responsible for helping Arnol with transportation to take these kids to different field trips, at no cost to the youth.

We are very Proud of what Arnol has accomplished and what he continues to do. He is a proud member of the Sunset Optimist Club



**Putting a smile on a kids face.**







**CPA Deadline**

The Club deadline to submit entries for the 2007-2008 CPA program is September 30, 2008.

All Club entries must be submitted in the official entry book using the 2007-2008 Project Story form to the District Activities Chair. Clubs should send entries with a cover letter stating the

names of all the participating Clubs, category entered and the date of shipment

**DISTRICT OFFICERS 2008-2009**

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|--------------------|------------------------------|
| PEGGY INGLE        | DISTRICT GOVERNOR            |
| CLARA HERBEL       | DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER |
| CHARLES MANSFIELD  | IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR      |
| GEORGE SMALL       | PAST GOVERNOR                |
| ADRIENNE PATTERSON | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 1  |
| BENNIE SMITH       | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 2  |
| KIT KELLEY         | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 3  |
| CHARLES JOHNSON    | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 4  |
| DOUGLAS SUTTON     | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 5  |
| ROBERT FUGIT       | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 6  |
| DOW SUMMERS        | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 7  |
| BECKI SALM         | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ZONE 8  |

**DISTRICT STAFF 2008-2009**

- |                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CLARA HERBEL      | CO-CHAIR, ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS      |
| NANCY FOSTER      | CO-CHAIR, ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS      |
| GAYE ERWIN        | CHAIR, ACTIVITIES                    |
| RUTH NELSON       | ASSISTANT GOVERNOR                   |
| ANNA-MARIE KEENA  | DISTRICT BULLETIN EDITOR             |
| GARY SLIMMER      | CHAIR, CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS      |
| LESLIE CALDWELL   | CHAIR, CCDHH                         |
| JIM SMITH         | CHAIR, CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN     |
| JEFF SUDDRETH     | CHAIR, CLUB SERVICES COMMITTEE       |
| HANK BOYER        | CHAIR, DISTRICT CONVENTION           |
| CECIL CUNDAY      | DISTRICT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE   |
| JANE HARRIS       | CHAIR, ESSAY CONTEST                 |
| CHARLES GALLIGHER | CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE             |
| RUTH NELSON       | CHAIR, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT        |
| DAVID PARKS       | CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP                    |
| KIETH BODINE      | CHAIR, NEW CLUB BUILDING             |
| JUDY MORRIS       | CO-CHAIR, JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS  |
| JIM MORRIS        | CO-CHAIR, JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS  |
| LARRY DRBAL       | CHAIR, ORATORICAL CONTEST            |
| KIT KELLEY        | DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PERSONAL GROWTH |
| ED BRUNS          | CO-CHAIR, PUBLIC RELATIONS           |
| PATSY BRUNS       | CO-CHAIR, PUBLIC RELATIONS           |
| DENNIS YOUNG      | CHAIR, SUPPLY                        |
| CHARLES MANSFIELD | DISTRICT WEBMASTER                   |
| GEORGE SMALL      | CO-CHAIR, DISTRICT JOOI CLUBS        |
| WILMA WILLIAMS    | CO-CHAIR, DISTRICT JOOI CLUBS        |
| CHARLES MANSFIELD | PRESIDENT'S AMBASSADOR               |
| JESSE MILAN       | CHAIR, DISTRICT COLLEGE CLUB         |



Wichita-Northeast Optimist above participated in the book drive held at the Center for Health & Wellness on August 9<sup>th</sup>. They helped by making a donation and helping with the distribution. L-R are: Rickey Dodd, Junious Hale, Albert Brown, Wilma Williams, Bill Breckenridge and George Small.

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Clockwinder Optimist—Bulletin September 2, 2008

Program: by Dick Holdman

Christian Larson wrote our creed. It was adopted in 1922 for the Optimist. Dick explained his approach to all ten of the listed items in the creed. Here are some of his thoughts...

Have an optimistic approach to life. Be sincere with your friends while telling them they are great. Don't settle for good, go for great. Pump others up. Mistakes aren't bad, we all learn from them. Be cheerful—smile—see if you get smiles back. Look for the positive. Change Anger, Worry and Fear to Confidence, peacemaker, and Brave. Serve and Leadership....that is what civic clubs are.

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Topeka Optimist Club - August 22, 2008

We were honored to have as our speaker, Judge David Bruns of the Shawnee County District Court, and more importantly a former International Vice-President of Optimist International. Judge Bruns related his personal relationships with OI, beginning when he entered an Oratorical Contest while in Junior High School. Later in his schooling he was hired as a law clerk by Optimist George Scott, and has been most active since then. (His remarks were so interesting; the Newsletter Editor forgot to take notes.) You can be assured they were all most positive about Optimism. Judge Bruns was also presented Topeka Optimist club donations for County Youth Court (\$200) and OI JOOI Clubs (\$100)

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Give Me "Five" for the Kids  
Donne-m'en « cinq » pour les enfants  
2008-2009