

QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER



Governor Shirley Bratton
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1st Quarter, OCT-DEC 2025 Vol.1

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.

Embrace Digital Transformation

- We are very excited to roll out this new format of communication with you all. Please know that every quarter, all members will receive the e-newsletters via email. If you know a member who does not have an email address, please let us know and we will be happy to help!

Thank you all!

Verify your contact information

- Members, please take time and log in to the optimist international website: www.optimist.org and ensure your contact information is correct. We don't want you to miss the latest information from OI or STXD!

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Greetings, Optimists!

As we begin Optimist Year 2026, I want to thank each of you for the incredible work you've done across South Texas. Your commitment to service, compassion, and connection is what makes our state and country strong—and it fills me with real optimism for the road ahead.

In towns large and small, volunteers like you have stepped up—not for recognition, but because you care. You've supported youth, helped families, and strengthened local community efforts, showing what it truly means to lead with heart. That spirit of service is the foundation of a brighter future.

This new year brings its share of challenges—but also new opportunities to work together, build stronger ties, and create lasting impact. I believe deeply in the power of people uniting with purpose, hope and optimism—and I see that power in each of you.

Thank you for believing in others. Thank you for being part of something bigger than yourselves. And thank you for showing us all what's possible when we lift each other up.

Thank you for a great "Optimist" year ahead!

Shirley Bratton, South Texas District Governor, Optimist International

NEXT QUARTER STXD MEETING IS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 9AM TO 1 PM (VIRTUAL) STAY TUNED!

OUR DISTRICT IN NUMBERS

10 ZONES

34 CLUBS

601 MEMBERS



MEET YOUR LT. GOVERNORS



Not in main picture:



Zone 4 Lt Governor Carlos Perez-
Tri County Optimist Club-3 years



Zone 8 & 9 Lt Governor Bobby
Melia-Optimist Club of Baytown-
44 years

Front Row (Left to Right) :

Governor Shirley Bratton-Optimist Club of San Antonio-6 years

Secretary-Treasurer Rosie Trujano-Noon Optimist Club of Laredo-23 years

Back Row (Left to Right) :

Zone 1 Lt Governor Kristi Williams-Optimist Club of Northwest Waco- 3 years

Zone 2 & 3 Lt Governor Doug Allen-Optimist Club of Manchaca-7 years

Zone 5 Lt Governor Jym Chenault- Optimist Club of Fredericksburg-20 years

Zone 6 & 7 Lt Governor Joe Smith-Optimist Club of Huntsville-40 years

Zone 10 Lt Governor Servando Maldonado-Noon Optimist Club of Laredo-24 years

OPTIMIST MOMENT:

Why Optimism Matters

In a world where negativity often takes center stage, optimism is a beacon of light. It fuels hope, strengthens resilience, and enables us to envision and work toward a better future. Optimism isn't about ignoring challenges—it's about facing them with courage, creativity, and determination.

By choosing optimism, we not only transform our own lives but also inspire those around us to embrace possibility and progress. Let's have an "Optimistic" Optimist Year!

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Does your club have a wish list of projects that you just cannot quite afford to tackle? Could your club have a greater impact with a bit more funding? If so, you may want to check out the Optimist International Foundation as a potential additional source of funding.

You may know that our foundation already funds District-level and higher-level programs like the Oratory Contest and the Essay Contest where scholarships are provided to our youth. You may not be aware, however, that the Optimist International Foundation also supports local club projects that allow us to support our youth. For example, the West Des Moines, Iowa Club and its JOI Club launched a Homeless Outreach Project, providing laundry supplies, food donations, meals for the homeless and blankets for those experiencing homelessness. Other Clubs pursued projects focused on disaster relief, childhood health and wellness and a variety of other projects. What project or projects might your club have in mind?

What supports those projects are our donations to the Optimist International Foundation. Those donations make support for our scholarship programs and for club projects possible. The best way to show your personal and your club support for the Foundation is by donating. Signing up and donating to our "Dime-A-Day" program is a good starting point, as is participating in our District's Live Auction and Silent Auction program, and our 50/50 raffle. Your donations make a significant difference!

Please be sure to bring an item or two from your Club for the Auctions, a check for \$ 36.50 for the Dime-A-Day pledge and bring your willingness to bid on the items that we will have on display. Let's make this a banner year for the Optimist International Foundation!

Additional information about our Optimist International Foundation can be found at: <https://www.oifoundation.org>

Doug Allen, District Foundation Representative

www.stxd.org
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