

## “New Club Building” IS NOW “New Community Growth”

Optimist International has changed the name but the mission and purpose is still the same: “BUILD MORE CLUBS” in more communities. And, one might consider the fact that the definition of a “COMMUNITY” does not necessarily mean a town or city. Communities are made up often within towns and cities. A community can be an area where a group of people with the same interests, schools, shopping areas, churches, businesses, and other common likes are located.

Governor Jack and I are working together in 2009-10 to build 8 new “community clubs” within the South Texas District. This is less than one per zone, and actually, only one per every ten clubs in the district. I am confident that 1 of 10 clubs in the district can assist another community and working with those who have an interest in the youth of their community can build a club. Your club would not exist today had not someone years ago decided to assist your club in forming within your community to

help kids reach their potential. I ask that each club in 2009-10 consider giving back to others, and especially the kids we serve, by assisting other communities in building a new club.

Whether we call it New Club Building or New Community Growth, our mission is the same. We have probably 5 million kids in the South Texas District in need of an Optimist club within their community. Let’s go out in Governor Jack’s year and build eight (8) or more and touch the lives of at least 14,000 of those who need Optimism in their lives.

You may contact me about assistance with New Community Growth questions at [ron@optimisticday.com](mailto:ron@optimisticday.com) or call me at 210-860-2323.

—Ron Graves, New Community Growth Director

# A & A

Our Achievements and Awards program is on the backstretch as we wind down this year of “Going Back to the Future” with Governor Fay. Although participation has been a bit slow, it is starting to pick up as interest started gathering at our District Convention in San Antonio as the “Competition Bug” started peaking around the corner.

As mentioned at the beginning of this year – this program is the best way for each and every Club to be recognized for the hard work they do each quarter and to be PROUD of their club and to SHOUT out their triumphs at each District meeting as their Clubs are recognized for turning in their paper work.

Our winners thus far have been:

First Quarter:	Third Place:	Galveston Noon
	Second Place:	North Austin
	First Place:	LaGrange

Second Quarter:	Third Place:	LaGrange
	Second Place:	North Austin
	First Place:	Schertz-Cibolo

Third Quarter:	Third Place:	Pflugerville
	Second Place:	North Austin
	First Place:	Galveston Noon

The final A&A report of the year is due to me by **OCTOBER 10, 2009**. There are several ways to get your final report to me to get included in the last quarter race. STxD website – [stxd.org](http://stxd.org) / “Programs” on the left side / Achievements and Awards / Fill out the form and hit submit. Some of you don’t trust the website so print out the form – and fax it to me at (512) 891-0402; or send it to me in the mail 5407 Sunshine Drive – Austin, TX 78756; or email it to me [olga.henson@teradyne.com](mailto:olga.henson@teradyne.com).

All Clubs that submit a report are recognized at the meetings, not just the top winners – so....be Proud of your Club – let the District know of your Achievements and SHOUT your Pride at our next District meeting in Corpus!

—Olga Henson— A & A Chairperson

# Internet Safety

As a parent or grandparent, do you know who your children are conversing with on the internet???? Do you even know how to access the computer to find out who your children are conversing with????

Optimist International has introduced a new program whose intent is to educate parents and adults that work with children about the growing threat of Internet predators and online dangers and to provide some tools to help keep children safe while on the Internet.

Dangers of the Internet are a very real risk to children, but unlike other threats to children, the issue of online dangers is preventable through education. If children and adults learn early about the dangers online, they will not become victims of Internet crimes.

This new program will be presented during training at the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter district meeting, so make plans to attend and learn how to help today’s children through educating their parents.

—Fay Hopkins, Internet Safety Chairperson