



SPRING IS IN THE AIR—WELL ALMOST

It is hard to believe that the first quarter has come and gone in what seemed such a short period of time. We know 2011 was a fantastic year in many respects but it's time to get back to optimist work in order to make 2012 truly a record breaking year for the South Texas District. We are ahead of many of the other districts but it's time to dust off our goals and objectives and move forward. We are talking about Texas and South Texas in particular so we must get busy and claim the number one spot that is just waiting for us to step up. Do we want to be number one or not? That is the big question? I optimistically hope that we as a district want to be number one!

Hopefully by this time you have several qualified and excited participants for Oratorical, Essay and the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). And don't forget the Young Texan-Texanne program. Many great programs are available to help the children of our communities and we should take advantage of the ones that fit for our club and youth.

What are your club and individual goals for the year in Optimism? Is building a new club in your future? And how many new members would you be satisfied with adding for the year? Do you have any new projects on the radar screen? Please remember that we are in the Second quarter and time is flying. It is truly time for action and lots of it. Wouldn't it be great for your club to always be remembered by a new club that you sponsored and installed this year? Please set your sights high for your club and zone

and our district will be pushed to the top.

If your club does not have an active PGI program going on you may be missing the best opportunity available to reward yourself, your members and the youth of your community. The PGI program is probably the best single thing offered to keep your club active and growing at a rapid pace. Please take a long look at this program, study it and the potential benefits it offers to your

members and to you. It will take care of your new member goals if you will get several members actively involved and you can learn all about it in February. Better still go online and get all the details, get it started so you can give us an exciting report in February on what it has done for your club.



The second quarter leadership training is set for Kerrville on February 17, 18 & 19 this year at the exciting Y O Ranch Hotel. Our goal as always it to provide a fantastic experience for you including great training, fun and fellowship along with outstanding Y O Ranch Hotel food. You will want to be sure and bring your camera and keep it zoomed in on the hot tub so you can get some great shots for your club bulletin. You never know who you may recognize relaxing in the beautiful clear hill country water. See you in February for a great Optimistic meeting in the Beautiful Hill Country of Texas. But please contact me before then if I can be of service or help at all. Have car, will travel.

—Governor Joe

OPTIMISTIC CAREER PATH

How can I be an asset to the District in order to assist more clubs to help more kids?

Come to Kerrville and learn about the Optimistic Career Path that will encompass a personal journey of growth and leadership development. You will be navigated through the offices and chairs at club, zone, district and International levels that make up our great civic organization. Governor-Elect James Rankin will team up with Past-Governor Jack Hopkins to discuss how you can fit into this distinguished group of volunteers that give of themselves to benefit children, and community. Learn the rewards of those who involve themselves as Lt. Governors, District Directors, District Chairs, and even Governor-Elect.

While all positions are set for 2011-2012, James will soon begin assembling his dynamic team for 2012-2013, so plan to be a part of something very special.

Your skills and experiences are valuable in assisting other Clubs and Club members in achieving their goal to "Bring Out the Best in Kids" which in turn will bring out the best in you.

Young Texan/Texanne Program

Do you know all about the Young Texan/Texanne Program? This is one of the three programs our district participates in. Young Texan/Texanne was begun sometime prior to 1979 when an Optimist and business man had a vision of some way recognizing outstanding young people in the state of Texas. He decided a scholarship program was the answer and in the beginning he provided much of the funding for the scholarships. In 1979 steps were taken to have the Young Texan/Texanne incorporated and seek exemption from Federal income tax, which was granted in 1980. The basic purpose of the corporation is to give recognition to young people who are maintaining a high level of scholastic performance, who are involved in extracurricular activities, who participate in civic and church activities and who are involved in their community. The program is funded by contributions from Optimist Clubs, individuals, and corporations. The annual banquet will be coming up in the spring when the scholarships will be presented. Funding is needed now so I am asking for all clubs to help with this program, it would be appreciated.

Any amount will help toward a scholarship for a deserving student. Checks can be sent to: Young Texan/Texanne, c/o Ken Garner, 1950 Rockbrook Court, Fort Worth, Texas 76112.

I will be doing some training at the next District Meeting so all are aware of this great program.

Nancy Mason
South Texas Chairman



Personal Growth and Involvement Program

As we prepare for our Second Quarter Conference in Kerrville, let me tell you what we will be doing with the PGI Program. There is an old phrase that we have all heard, "Killing two birds with one stone." Well, we are sure not going to kill anything and we are not going to throw any stones. However, we will be doing double duty in our presentation. We will be presenting one of the ten Optimist Skills Modules, "*Orientation to Optimism for New Members.*" Why will this be doing double duty?

First, we hope that this might provide an additional incentive for you to invite your newer members to attend the Conference. It is so important to get our new members off on the right foot. It is a grand way for them to discover the fun, the fellowship and the opportunity to learn more about Optimism.

Second, it will provide those of you working on the various levels of the program the opportunity to complete one of the four skill module requirements found in Levels Three, Five, Eight and Nine. It will also provide you with the needed information to return to your Club and/or Zone and provide orientation to the new members coming into our organization.

For a many years I have preached on the benefits of the P G I Program because I am convinced that it is the program that makes us the complete Optimist. It provides a tremendous insight into our organization and will provide each and every one of us with greater life skills. I encourage you to come to Kerrville and bring your questions and do bring your Passports. Be prepared to come away with having achieved another step in your journey toward Level Ten. See you there.

Ed Finn, CIT and PGI Director

400 PATCH

Has your club made its donation to receive its 400 Patch for the 2011-2012 year? Your club only needs to make a donation of \$400 to receive the beautiful "40th Anniversary Celebration" Patch.

And while we are at it, have you personally renewed your President's Club? If not your donation of \$250 (or \$400.00 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Foundation) can be mailed to me or directly to the Optimist International Foundation office in St. Louis.

And don't forget that elections will be coming for the OIF Board, and you have to at least joined as a Dime-A-Day member to vote.

Everything donated to the Optimist International Foundation goes to benefit the children in our communities and around the world. So let us all make a difference in a child's life by making our donations today.

Jack Hopkins, District Foundation Representative

Optimism, a Direct Link to Longevity

by James M. Rankin

The medical community has proven that being positive can increase your longevity. According to Becca R. Levy PhD, people who view aging as a positive experience live an average of seven-and-a-half years longer than those who look at it negatively. The study went on to point out that people who are pessimistic in their attitudes have a higher risk of death. They have a nineteen percent (19%) greater chance of death than the average person. That is powerful scientific information concerning the philosophy of optimism.

There are so many reasons why becoming an Optimist makes all the sense in the world, but it is refreshing when you meet someone who personifies the very essence of the philosophy. Tom Ward, a member of the Pasadena Optimist club, is ninety-two years young. He has been a member of his local club since 1941 and has served in numerous roles as President and Secretary Treasurer. He is still very active and independent in his life although he is now retired. He attributes his longevity to being Optimistic which means being nice to everyone. What a testimony for recruiting a new member! Optimism is the solution to many problems facing the world today, and an Optimist Club is the vehicle to make a difference in the lives of our local citizens, children and the community environment.. Pass it on, Optimism works!



Tom Ward and James Rankin

Constructing a JOOI District

In a continuation of last quarter's VOICE, I would like to discuss what is involved in forming a JOOI district. Basically, it plays the same role as an OI District. In our case, the area would be the same as that covered by South Texas District. It would include all JOOI clubs in our area whether directly sponsored by an Optimist Club or not. The officers would include a governor, secretary/treasurer, an appropriate number of lieutenant governors, and a governor-elect. As the district moves on, there would also be the addition of the past governor. The clubs themselves form the General Assembly which is the governing body of the JOOI district. At least four clubs must send representatives to the convention to form a district. Two key items at the first district convention would be the election of district officers and the approval of district by-laws. There would also be training provided to officers and other workshops of interest to the JOOI members.

So at the second quarter district meeting there will be a workshop to brainstorm development of a JOOI District convention with the result being a JOOI District for South Texas.

Hope to see you there if you have a JOOI club in your area or one in the works.

Carol Hodges
cahhanc@aol.com

Schedule of Events

Friday

Hello Party

6:00 pm - 8:00pm

Saturday

Breakfast

On Your Own

Registration

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Training

9:45 am - 11:45 am

Lunch

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Training

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Social (Happy Hour Bar Prices)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Awards Banquet & Entertainment

7:00 pm til ??

Sunday

Breakfast

6:30 am - 8:30 am

General Session

9:00 am - 11:30 am

Training Schedule

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Orientation to Optimism

Ed Finn

11:00 am – 11:45 am

Optimistic Career Paths

Jack Hopkins & James Rankin

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm

NOW Programs

Terry Hickman & Richard Bolling

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Young Texan/Texanne

Nancy Mason

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

JOOI Clubs & Convention

Carol Hodges

HAPPY NEW YEAR

South Texas District
Optimist International
Governor Joe Smith
229 Park Hill
Huntsville, TX 77340

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Optimist International:
<http://www.optimist.org>
South Texas District:
<http://www.stxd.org>

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.



Purposes of the Optimist Club

- ◆ To develop optimism as a philosophy of life;
- ◆ 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 man, his community and world.