



# District News

Pacific Northwest Optimist District #32

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## Governor's Message

**Ben DeRemer · Pacific Northwest District**



This last month was a busy one for many of us, not only with our Optimist projects, but with helping out friends and family members during the holiday season. Now it is a new year, which comes with it many new opportunities and possibilities. Many of us make New Year's resolutions for how we can improve ourselves, but I ask you to also look at ways you can support and improve the programs that your Clubs provide throughout your communities.

With many Clubs receiving their membership invoices from Optimist International during these first few weeks of the month, Clubs often begin purging members from their roster who no longer show up to meetings. But I ask that instead of removing a member, to try and have an in-person discussion with them to better understand why they are unable to attend meetings or projects. In years past, many Clubs gauged the interest and activeness of members based on showing up to meetings, but with ever increasing obligations and mounting expectations to do more and more with family and work, it can be difficult to make time to go to meetings anymore. But just because someone cannot attend a meeting does not mean they can't play an important role in their Club. Oftentimes members become less engaged because they don't feel connected to

the Club anymore or feel like they have no reason or purpose for being involved. Though we often ask to recruit new members for your Club, don't forget to re-engage current members and let them know that they are needed and are missed. Sometimes just a simple phone call or personal visit is all it takes to spark and reignite their passion and desire to be more involved.

As a final note, I need to make a correction for the name and contact information for the District Essay Chair published in the December newsletter. I incorrectly entered Emma Ball as the Essay Chair, when in fact the Essay Chair for the District is Monique Connors. Remember that Club-level Essay winners need to be emailed to Monique by February 28<sup>th</sup>; she can be reached at [connorsmjk@yahoo.com](mailto:connorsmjk@yahoo.com).

Yours in Optimism,

Ben DeRemer  
2018-2020 Governor  
Pacific Northwest Optimist District #32

# What's Happening Next

## Optimist of the Quarter - January 10, 2019

Club President's can nominate members of their Club for Optimist of the Quarter in each Zone. Nominations will be due by January 10<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to turn them in as soon as possible. A copy of the nomination can be found on [page 4](#) of this newsletter.

## Updated District Website - January 15, 2019

I have set a deadline for major updates of the District website to be completed by Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Some of the changes include separate pages for Clubs and Regional areas to help better promote their local projects within their community. We will also have a member portal to help keep our contact information more secure and allow individuals to register for and pay online for District meetings. If you have any ideas or suggestions for changes, please send them to [optimistfeedback@gmail.com](mailto:optimistfeedback@gmail.com).

## Essay Contest Deadline - February 28, 2019

The deadline for Clubs to have completed the Club-level contest for the Optimist International Essay program will be Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please send your Club-level winning essays to Monique Connors at [connorsmjk@yahoo.com](mailto:connorsmjk@yahoo.com).

## Regional Meetings and Competitions

This year we will be holding Regional-level competitions instead of Zone-level competitions for the Oratorical Contest and Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). More information is provided on [page 6](#) of this newsletter.

## Spring Board Meeting - April 12-14, 2019

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter District meeting for the Pacific Northwest District and the District-level Oratorical/CCDHH contests will be held the weekend prior to Easter from **April 12-14, 2019**. We will be holding it at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Bellingham, Washington. So be sure to mark your calendars and look for more information soon.

## District Executive Committee Leadership Retreat - June 7-9, 2019

The District Executive Committee Leadership Retreat is conducted to provide trainings and workshops for the Lt. Governor-elects and Asst. Governor-elects to prepare them for their positions of office and for the planning of the upcoming administrative year. This is a mandatory training for all Officer-elects. It will be held in Government Camp, Oregon.

January 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# What Did You Miss

## District Executive Committee Meeting - December 30, 2018

This was the first time that the District Executive Committee has met using Video Conference technology. Of the 26 Officers of the District Executive Committee, 20 were present for the meeting with 14 using webcams, 3 signing in online, and 3 calling in from their phones. The primary purpose for the meeting was to make a selection for the 2019 District Convention location, as well as give brief Standing Committee Reports.



## Convention Location

The Committee reviewed the four locations under consideration (White Rock, British Columbia; Clackamas, Oregon; Longview, Washington, and; Victoria, British Columbia). Three votes were given for the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon, with the remaining votes given to the Days Inn Victoria Uptown in Victoria, British Columbia. One of the primary reasons given for this choice is that this area is considered a "Destination Location" that might attract newer attendees, and it would give more activities to do in the area. The Governor will be doing a site visitation later in January to confirm that the facility meets the needs to host a District Convention.

## Signatories, Depositories, Financial Review, and Additional District Scholarships

Additional Officers were added as signatories to both the US Bank Account and Canadian Bank Account to give added management and oversight to funds. The Director of Finance created two exploratory committees to review potential new depositories for District accounts, as well as perform a three-year financial review for the District. The additional Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) Scholarship was discussed, noting that funds needed to be received or committed by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Governor said that he would personally commit to finding the funds to ensure a second contest can be held; he will be working with donors from previous years to secure the funding.

## Advisory Council Members and Optimist of the Quarter

The newly revised District Policies require that members for the District Advisory Council must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the District Executive Committee. The following individuals were approved as members of the Advisory Committee: Jerry Deas, Neal Smith, and Christopher Meek. Lt. Governors were also asked to promote the new Zone Optimist of the Quarter nominations to their respective Club Presidents to recognize an outstanding member within their Club.

# Zone Optimist of the Quarter

## Pacific Northwest Optimist District #32

Winter 2019

Each club is encouraged to honor a member as their Optimist of the Quarter and to nominate that candidate for recognition as the Zone Optimist of the Quarter. The Lt Governor for each Zone will select the winner for the Zone Optimist of the Quarter. This cover page must be attached to the nomination for a candidate to be considered. Only the accomplishments for the previous Optimist Quarter should be included in the nomination. This will give our new Members an opportunity to earn this award.

To prevent embarrassment, the candidate should not be notified of this nomination.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Significant Other's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Professional Title \_\_\_\_\_

Club Position(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Club President's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Nomination Letter Requirements

***The Candidate's name or Club name should NEVER be used in the nomination letter.***

The nomination letter should contain the following:

- What has this Optimist Member contributed in the months of October, November, and December to your Club?
- Why does this Optimist Member stand out above other Optimist members of your Club?
- Has this Optimist Member volunteered for a Club Officer position or chaired a committee/project for your Club during this time?
- How long has this Optimist been a Member of your Club?
- How does this Optimist Members exemplify and live by the Purposes of Optimist International (To develop optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; 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 humankind, community life and the world)?

Zone Optimists of the Quarter awards will be presented at each Zone's respective Regional meeting in March/April. Award recipients will also be published in the Pacific Northwest District Winter issue of the quarterly magazine.

# Scholarship Contests

## Optimist International Scholarship Programs

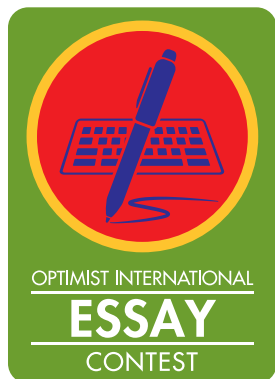
Aaron Codiga · Assistant Governor (Director of Youth Programs)



Each year Clubs have the opportunity to give students in their area the chance to compete for scholarships awarded by the Pacific Northwest District through the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. However, in recent years, Clubs have had a difficult time finding students to compete in these scholarships, as well as finding community members willing to judge the contests. Many of the students who are actively seeking scholarships look online for potential scholarships in their area, as well as seek out guidance and career counselors at their schools who typically keep track of local scholarship opportunities. Below is a list of individuals and groups your Club should contact to promote the Club-level contests for the Essay and Oratorical programs:

- School Guidance/Career Counselors, Principals, English Teachers, Parent/Teacher Associations
- Homeschool Outreach at School-District Offices
- Local church and youth-groups
- Associate Student Bodies, Student Council Leadership, National Honor Society
- JOI Clubs, Key Clubs, Leo Clubs, Interact Clubs
- Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy and Girl Scout Troops, 4H, Big Brother Big Sister
- Sports teams or other groups your Club sponsors

In trying to find community members to help with judging or helping to run the contests, try to reach out to groups like Toastmasters, Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary Clubs. They may have members in their Clubs with experience to help, or they may be willing to help promote the scholarships with their own youth programs. You could also go to your local chamber of commerce to find local business leaders willing to be judges.



## Essay and Oratorical Contests

The guide for conducting the Essay contest at the Club-level can be found at [www.optimist.org/member/scholarships3.cfm](http://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships3.cfm). Essay contests at the Club-level must be completed by February 28<sup>th</sup>, with the winning essays emailed to the District Chair, Monique Connors, at [connorsmjk@yahoo.com](mailto:connorsmjk@yahoo.com). The guide for conducting the Oratorical contest at the Club-level can be found at [www.optimist.org/member/scholarships4.cfm](http://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships4.cfm). Oratorical contests at the Club-level must be completed by the Regional-level competition set for each Regional area (dates can be found on [page 6](#) in this newsletter). You can contact the District Chair, Becky Holm, at [beckyllholm@gmail.com](mailto:beckyllholm@gmail.com).

## Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

This year the CCDHH will first be conducted at the Regional-level due to the potential costs that could make it prohibitive for Clubs to conduct a Club-level contest. Clubs can still conduct a Club-level contest if they so wish. For a student to compete at the Regional-level CCDHH contest, they must be sponsored by an Optimist Club. The District will be asking Clubs this month if they would be willing to sponsor two students in each the signing and oral CCDHH contests. You can contact the District Chair, Aaron Codiga, at [aaronbcodiga@gmail.com](mailto:aaronbcodiga@gmail.com) for more information. Guides for the CCDHH contest can be found at <https://www.optimist.org/member/scholarships2.cfm>.

# Regional Meetings

## District Regional Meetings and Competitions

Ben DeRemer • Regional Meetings Coordinator



Instead of having 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meetings this year, we will be focusing on establishing Regional-level competitions for our Optimist International Scholarship Programs. Holding Regional-level meetings and contests will allow our District Leadership Team to provide greater support for the Clubs within our District in organizing and facilitating contests at the local levels. It also creates a unique opportunity for greater exposure of Optimist Clubs within the community through use of news releases and social media marketing plans. Regional meetings will give us the ability to:

- Provide support for Club-level contests
- Give more opportunities for our youth to receive College Scholarships
- Leverage our Optimist Brand to better market our Optimists Clubs
- Recognize outstanding members within our local communities
- Connect our Clubs, and build better relationships with each other

## Planning and Logistics

In order to conduct each of these Regional meetings and corresponding scholarship contests, we will be needing the assistance of Optimist members in each Regional area. The scholarship contests will be conducted during the morning of each Regional meeting, with a luncheon in the early afternoon to recognize the winners at the Regional-level contests, as well as an opportunity to recognize local community members. Clubs will have the opportunity to set up displays and tri-folds to showcase the projects in their community. Time will be allocated in the afternoon to help critique displays and give advice on improving Club promotional materials.

The \$50 contestant fees for each student will not be enough to cover the costs for conducting each of the Regional meetings, and as a District we do not want to pass this cost onto Optimist Clubs or their members to run them. Instead, we will be seeking support in the form of sponsorships from local businesses and other service groups who would be willing to partner with us to put each of these on.

If you are interested in helping to plan a Regional meeting in your area, or are willing to volunteer the day of the event, please send me an email at [optimistfeedback@gmail.com](mailto:optimistfeedback@gmail.com).

## Regional Meeting Dates

Below is the list of dates that Regional meetings will be held:

- **Alaska** – Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Fairbanks)
- **Utah** – Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Salt Lake City)
- **Oregon** – Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> (Keizer)
- **Idaho** – Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> (Boise/Meridian)
- **Washington** – Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tacoma/Longview)
- **British Columbia** – Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> (Chilliwack/Mission)
- **Vancouver Island** – Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (Victoria)
- **Yukon** – Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (Whitehorse)

# Promise Yourself Award

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

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### Criteria

- Sponsor a New Member
- Participate in a Club Project
- Submit a testimonial/"Optimist Story" to Optimist International

### Award

- Centennial "Promise Yourself" logo pin



## CLUB PRESIDENT

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### Criteria

- Personally earn the Individual Member award
- 20% of Club Members earn Individual Member award

### Award

- Centennial "Promise Yourself" logo letter opener



## CENTENNIAL FAST START AWARD

*Deadline by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018*

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### Criteria

- Build a New Adult Club
- Net +5 in Members by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 (on track for +10 year-end)

### Award

- Every Member of Club eligible for \$100 Convention registration in Louisville, Kentucky



# 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.*

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