



The Van-Guard

Official Publication of Optimist Club 32-185
October/November 2017



Welcome Dannette Cara

Welcome Dannette (Danni) Cara, our newest member. We met Danni when she agreed to be an Oratorical judge for the last couple of years. Danni has already jumped in with both feet, agreeing to coordinate the club's Oratorical competition on March 10, 2018. She has also agreed to coordinate the club's Essay competition, joined the Board of Directors and is helping with our holiday celebration. Danni has a strong background in finance, great training skills, and multiple connections with youth organizations and fund-raising contacts. You'll get a chance to meet her at our holiday celebration on December 9.

Coming Events!

December 2: Annual Walk and Knock, contact them at (877) 995-6625 or walkandknock.org.

December 3: Board Meeting, noon, home of Danni Cara, 15016 NE 29th Avenue, Vancouver 98686

December 9: Holiday Celebration, Fisher's Grange, 814 NE 162nd Avenue *(See flyer attached)*

December 14: Christmas Ship Cruise with SSS 630 Dragon, 6-8:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Contact Ray Carlyle at 360.521-6381

January 31, 2018: Essay Contest deadline, contact Danni Cara at 360.910.3310

March 10, 2018: Club Oratorical Contest, contact Danni Cara at 360.910.3310

Pacific Northwest District, Kennewick



The Pacific Northwest District's first quarter conference in Kennewick, Washington saw more than 60 folks registered for good fun, great food and outstanding training. *(The view from my hotel room window.)*

Esthermarie Hillman, an Optimist International Trainer, flew in from Tucson along with Jim Pekny, International Vice-President of the West Coast Region. Getting to Kennewick was quite an adventure for them as they were stuck on the ground in Arizona because of bad weather in

Seattle. Ultimately, they connected with Bruce and Judy Gilbertson and all was well.

At the opening session, we were welcomed by Kennewick Mayor Steve Young, who enthusiastically shared his pride in his city and its accomplishments. Sounds like it is a great place to live.

On Saturday, Esthermarie was joined by Jim Pekny covering the topic of "Optimist Strong."

What made this training so valuable was that we didn't just learn what to do, but actually how to do it -- where to recruit new members, how to set the hook and get them to ask for more, and when to just walk away. If someone isn't interested in talking about Optimism, don't waste your



time on a hard sell. You can reach more people, and people who will be genuinely interested saying thank you and moving on to the next person. We were also drawn into some really great team-building exercises as well. This was some of the best and most interesting training I've been involved in in a long time.



Because our first quarter was the last weekend in October, we also held a Halloween Costume Contest at the end of Opening Session on Friday night. There were a lot of great costumes. Paul Messersmith from Boise was everyone's favorite and won first place. Dennis Sprague, President of the Hillsboro, Oregon Club, was a close second. This was also Dennis' first time at an Optimist conference. What a good sport he was!!

During the Executive Committee meeting on Friday, a number of important items were discussed. The "official PNWD website" is now pnwdoptimist.org. The minutes of the Executive Committee and Board of Director's meetings will be published as soon as they are completed. One item to note related to the

budget and next year's convention is that it might not take place in Lebanon even though the Club put together a really great proposal. The hotel and conference facility are absolutely beautiful; however, after reviewing costs and what they can and cannot do for us, the Committee found the overall costs to be prohibitive. We are considering another venue in the same general area. Bruce and I are also concerned about the significant cost increases and business changes at the Best Western Hood River Inn, one of our favorite places to visit. The event has been set for April 27-29, 2018. This is when the Oratorical and the Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) take place. So, stay tuned.

The three one-day events in February and March are still in the planning process. However, Zones 2 and 3 in Idaho have set their date and venue for March 3, at Big Al's.

Walk & Knock December 2, 2017

Walk & Knock is a volunteer organization that collects food donated by Clark County residents and placed outside their doors the first Saturday of December. The organization coordinates volunteers to fold grocery bags, distribute the folded bags throughout Clark County which are then collected by Walk & Knock volunteers. Collected food bags are taken to their designated area collection centers on



drive day. All collected food and money is donated to the Clark County Food Bank of Vancouver, Washington. This

is a 100% volunteer led 501c3 non-profit entity. They collect non-perishable food, toiletries and welcome any donations to their non-profit.

The Optimist Club of Vancouver supports Walk & Knock every year through a registration fee of \$200, as well as participating in the event. Skipper Ray Carlyle, *The SSS 630 Dragon*, and the Sea Scout crew will be participating again this year. They will be volunteering in Sector C. If you would like to join them, they would be happy to have you. You can reach Ray at 360.521.6381, or raycarlyl@gmail.com You can also contact Walk & Knock at walkandknock.org or call 877.995.6625 to sign up in a different sector. (Photo courtesy Walk & Knock)

If zombies ever attack, just go to Costco...they have concrete walls...years of food and supplies...and best of all, zombies can't get in without a Costco membership card!

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 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 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,
to strong for fear, and too happy to permit
the presence of trouble.*

Your Optimist Leadership

October 1, 2017

Optimist International

H. Nick Prillaman Jr., President

Pacific Northwest District

Bruce Gilbertson, Governor

Lt. Governor, Zone 4

Gary Smith, Lt. Governor

Club & Foundation Officers

Bob Ladu, President, 503.502.1415

Rod Pollock, 360.254.458

Mary White, Sec/Treas, 360.695.1349

Board Members

Kay Johnston, 360.573.6808

Donna Rude, 360.687.4768

Don Job, 360.892.0992

Steve Enyeart, 360.718.8350

Newsletter

Mary White, Editor