

Club President



Resources for Success!



We live in the “information age.” Knowledge is power. Knowledge is only limited by our ability to access and use information.

It has been said that it is not necessary that you know everything about being president, nor that you know everything about what your volunteers should do, only that you know where to find it out.

Resources are not only a powerful ally to you but a benefit to those who serve with you.

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Resources for Success (Part 2 of 8)

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Web-sites and Email



www.Optimist.org Here is a great resource with a wide variety of information about Optimists and what we do for youth and our communities.

- Members: programs and activities, directories, forms, public service announcements for local media, insurance, fees & dues, tax exempt letter, International convention info,

logos, member applications, Leadership Hotline and a link to Optimist Supplies.

- Visitors: About Optimism, How to join, history, vision, mission and Creed.
- Junior Golf Championships: location/dates, qualifying procedures, course info, policies
- JOOI Youth Clubs: convention info, forms, officers and "Torch" newsletter

www.Optimistleaders.org Club Leaders can access information to help them be more effective.

- Club officer information, club organization, budget & finance, club meetings, reports and a "President-elect planning workbook"
- Club committee appointment guides – outline for every committee
- Skills Development modules and our Personal Growth and Involvement (PGI) program for member development
- Teaching materials for presenters: PowerPoint presentations, faculty guides, handouts and "Certified Trainers"
- Electronic reports and payments: Check your roster, add members, change addresses and pay club dues



You've got mail!

www.Optimistmail.org Here you can find your on-line Optimist mailbox. Check it weekly to stay up-to-date! There is also a feature that allows you to have your mail automatically forwarded to your email address. It is active only during the year which you are club President.

Tip: Consider using the "help/site map" button to quickly access any item on web sites

Got a Link ? Notify webmaster@optimist.org to link your Club's web site

Your Lieutenant Governor



Your Lieutenant Governor is your personal connectedness to Optimist International. If you don't know where to go for an answer this is a good place to start. Your Lieutenant Governor has been a Club President and can identify with what you are doing.

Your Lieutenant Governor can assist you in beginning the club year by facilitating an "Annual Club Planning Conference". This is generally done with your club's Board of Directors and includes a "checklist" of resources you currently have and asks what Board Members want to accomplish in the coming year.

Your Lieutenant Governor is generally aware of the activities of the other clubs around you and hosts "zone meetings" where club officers can share ideas in a supportive environment.

Your Lieutenant Governor is generally the officer to install you and other incoming club officers. He or she may also visit your club several times during the year.

Your Lieutenant Governor's role is to help you succeed. They are to give you advice, support and make you look good in the eyes of your club members.

District Committees

Your District (Headed by a Governor) includes many clubs, several zones (Headed by Lieutenant Governors) comprising an area similar to the size of a State or Province.

A district committee can provide resources and information to your club. It represents an expertise in a particular area such as, "Membership", "Oratorical", "Essay", "Junior Optimist Octagon Clubs", "Building new clubs", "Junior Golf Championships", "Childhood cancer campaigns" and many others. As a club you may call on these people to ask questions or to get information about District-wide competition opportunities for your youth participants. The committee member's names and contact information is generally found in a "district directory" or a "district website."



International Officers and Staff

As previously mentioned, your club's most immediate contact is the local Lieutenant Governor who presides over a group of clubs called a zone. A number of zones comprise a district which is administered by a Governor.

At the International level there are ten Vice Presidents who each support a Region of several districts. Overseeing their support is the President of Optimist International.

There is also a Board of Directors of Optimist International which is responsible for financial supervision, policies, and strategic planning. Names and information for these officers are available at www.optimist.org.

Committees (that primarily provide expertise and support) are available both at the district and international level.

Optimist International employs a professional staff with headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, USA and a Service Centre in Montréal, Québec, Canada. More complete information is also available at www.optimist.org.

You also have access to club supplies at “Shumsky Supply” USA and “Canadian Supply” Canada. See www.optimist.org

Conferences and Conventions

One of the benefits of club affiliation is the opportunity to attend low-cost, informative conferences where you learn how to do your job better from the experts. In addition a great deal of new ideas can be gathered from sharing experiences with other clubs. Ideas are readily available on “youth activities”, “fund raising”, “recruitment programs”, “leadership development”, and “personal development”.

Your District will generally offer four of these meetings per year on a quarterly basis. More information as to their whereabouts can be found in your district directory or district web-site.



Once a year Optimists from all over United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and other Nations get together for a Convention. This is a great experience for fun, entertainment and meeting people from all over Optimist International. Each club also has “delegate votes” to decide major issues of Optimist International. There is a “House of Optimism” that highlights unique products and ideas as well as the latest from our official supply vendors. Many back-to-school workshops are available to learn just about anything you would want to know about being a great Optimist!

This is an extraordinary opportunity for your incoming club president to attend because of the information they get which will directly benefit your Club. Financial support for this individual to attend is appropriate.

Optimist Magazine & Leadership Hotline



“*The Optimist*” magazine” is mailed periodically to every member of Optimist International. It includes human interest stories about people and Optimism. It also has editorials from our International President and annual program information. A wide variety of club activities are also highlighted in the magazine.

The “Leadership Hotline” is mailed periodically to your email box at www.optimistmail.org. It includes leadership information, dates for planning and program ideas.

Recognition and Awards

As President, you can be an advocate for your club and its members by making them eligible to receive recognition and awards for the great things they do. The basic club award is that of “Honor Club” which recognizes a club for doing a good job and leaving the club a little better off at the end of the year (September 30th) than when it began. “Distinguished Club” status comes from doing an extraordinary job of growing your club or bringing Optimism to new communities. See details in the “Recognition Handbook” available online at www.optimist.org

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Who is the primary resource person who you might go to for help?

As President, how will you be able to view your official club roster online?

What are the addresses of our Web-sites?

Where can you get official Optimist Supplies with logos?



The End of part 2: Resources for Success

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