

GATEway News



SERVING OPTIMIST CLUBS IN GEORGIA AND TENNESSEE

Volume 2

Issue 2

Scholarship Edition 2023



2023 Optimist Scholarship Information



Conference and Convention Sites
GATEway District Optimist International 2022-2023



GATEway First Quarter Conference – November 4-6, 2022

Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center
 2443 Highway 54 West
 Peachtree City, GA 30269
 770-487-2000
 RATE: \$139.00 + tax



2022-2023 GATEway District Kick-Off

GATEway Second Quarter Conference – January 20-22, 2023

Hotel Indigo Athens
 500 College Avenue
 Athens, GA 30601
 1-866-808-1483
 RATE: \$129.00 + tax + \$5.00 parking fee per night



*GATEway District Hall of Fame Recognition
 2021-2022 Awards and Recognition Banquet*

GATEway Third Quarter One-Day Conference – April 22, 2023

Tellus Science Museum (Location of Event)
 100 Tellus Drive
 Cartersville, GA 30120



Hampton Inn Cartersville (for Accommodations)
 5600 Highway 20 SE
 Cartersville, GA 30121
 770-382-8999
 RATE: \$105.00 + tax



GATEway District Scholarship Contests

GATEway District Convention – August 3-6, 2023

Hilton Atlanta Northeast
 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
 Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
 1-800-678-4120
 RATE: \$129.00 (King) or \$139.00 (Queen) + tax



*Lieutenant Governor-Elect Training
 Officer-Elect Training
 District Governor Election
 GATEway District Optimist of the Year Recognition*



Governor

Bruce Peace

1958 Little Texas

Valley Road

Rome, GA 30165

706-676-4656

BPeace4@

comcast.net



Secretary

Amy Myers

100 Percheron Dr.

Canton, GA 30114

765-227-0006

yellowtigerw@

Gmail.com



Treasurer

Dianna Johnson

PO Box 1160

**Carrollton, GA
30112**

770-355-0474

ddjohnson@

Juno.com



Immediate

Past Governor

Gerald Johnson

PO Box 1160

**Carrollton, GA
30112**

770-437-0000

geraldjohnson@

Juno.com



Governor Elect

Kathy Forster

PO Box 6032

**Cleveland, GA
30528**

256-371-0062

kforster428@

Yahoo.com

News Stories Needed !

Do you have local club news? Do you have committee news? Do you have other Optimist news? Send stories and photos to Dianna Johnson at ddjohnson@juno.com or Gerald Johnson at geraldjohnson@juno.com Next issue deadline is December 30, 2022..

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2022-2023



ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

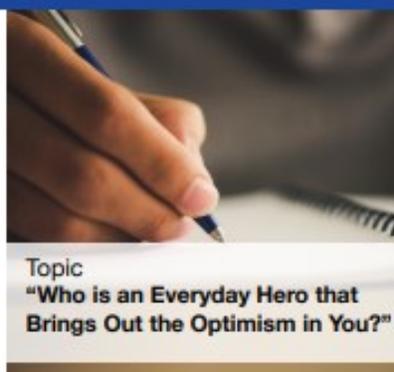
District Scholarships:
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000
with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the World Championships level

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live.

The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

One District Scholarship of \$2,500



COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

One District Scholarship of \$2,500

KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on www.optimist.org

How Bright is your Light?

Greetings Fellow Optimist,

I hope that you had a happy holiday season. The holidays are a time that we can take a break from some of the things that occupy our lives and reflect on what's important. It's also a time to reflect on the future and how we can improve our lives and those of others. As refreshing as the season is, it's also great to return to some of our normal routines.

At this time of our "optimist year," we turn our focus to several of our flagship activities, including our scholarship contest. During this quarter we will kick off our Essay, Oratorical, and Communication Contest for the Deaf and hard of hearing. (CCHDD). These contests are part of our foundation following the mission of "By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves". This issue of the GATEway Gazette will focus on these contests. I hope that your club is participating in these contests giving our youth the chance to showcase their knowledge, talents, and optimism. If not please reach out to your club leadership or our District Contest Chairs to learn how your club can participate.

Don't forget that these activities provide an excellent chance for you to "Just Invite" someone to experience Optimism at its best. I've never attended an Oratorical, CCHDD, or Essay program where I wasn't inspired by and proud of our youth.

Now, with the hustle and bustle of the holiday season behind us, it is time to recommit to spreading the gift of optimism by living the Creed and asking others to join our movement. Our world needs it!

Be the Light!

Governor Bruce



For more information and to get the 2023 CCDHH contest and for the 2023 planning Guide please go to the link below:

https://www.optimist.org/Documents/programs/2023/2022-23_CCDHH_Club_Planning_Guide.pdf



2023 Optimist CCDHH Contest

The topic for this years CCDHH Contest [Communication Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing] is Discovering the Optimism Within Me. GATEway District members lets be TRUE Optimists, discovering and working together to Bring OUT the Best in the young people who are a part of our program.

Please observe the following:

1. Please have your club contest before April 1st, 2023.
2. As usual there will be a Signing Contest and Oral Contest the winner of each contest will receive a \$2500.00 scholarship.
3. Optimist International has all the information needed to participate in contest on-line.
4. The Contest must have judges from the deaf community.
5. Contact your local school systems to help in finding students to participate and judges.
6. A recent Audiogram must be a part of the students entry forms.

Please have your club winners names and completed applications to Ellen Strait by April 8th, 2023.

The District CCDHH Contest will be held April 22,2023 at the TELUS SCIENCE MUSEUM, Club Winners names and completed applications must be sent to Ellen Strait by April 8th, 2023.

Include a contest entrance check for \$35.00 for each of your winners participating in District Contest.

Five Clubs are now planning to have Contests. GREAT!!!!

Contact Ellen Strait for further information or need application forms.
125 Wake Forest Dr.
Warner Robins, GA 31093
478-957-5960 E-mail straitl@cox.net

Lets have the BEST contest ever!

For additional information and the 2023 Essay Contest Planning Guide Please go to the link below:

www.optimist.org/Documents/2023/programs/22-23_Essay_Club_Planning_Guide.pdf



2022-2023 Optimist International Essay Contest

Topic:

“Who is an Everyday Hero that Brings Out the Optimism in You?”

District Essay Chair: Dot Sayer

Email: dotsayer57@gmail.com

Cell: 770-823-2923

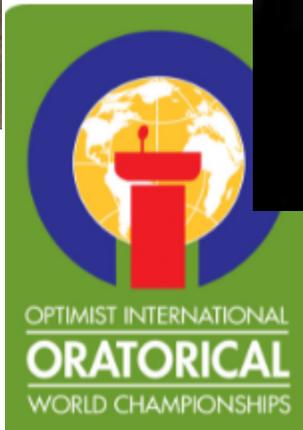
The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person’s personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

This contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2022 and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent. There is no minimum age. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced and contain not less than 700 and no more than 800 words. Works of fiction or poetry are not eligible.

Zone winners advance to the District contest to compete for a \$2,500 college scholarship. The District level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation.

For more information on the 2023 Oratorical contest and for a planning guide, please go to the link below:

https://www.optimist.org/documents/2023/programs/22-23_Oratorical_Club_Planning_Guide.pdf



THE OLDEST AND BEST CONTEST OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Topic: “Discovering the Optimism within Me”

DISTRICT CONTEST CHAIR: RICHARD BRACKNELL

Email: Richard.Bracknell@carrolltoncityschools.net

Phone: 770 314 2425

Congratulations to our international winner! The Seventh Annual Optimist International

World Championships took place at St. Louis University on July 21-22, 2022.

Samiksha Gaherwar participated in the contest as the Oratorical winner from the GATEway District. Samiksha graduated from Lambert High School in Suwanee, Georgia and was the Valedictorian. She plans to attend Princeton University. She has been participating the the oratorical contest for 8 years.

The Oratorical Contest last year in the GATEway District was a near record winner with more clubs and contestants. It was an event that showed hope in our youth and dedication in our clubs. We look forward to yet a better contest this year. Our goal is to have 40 Clubs participate this year. Start now preparing for your club to send two contestants (gender neutral) up the “Oratorical Ladder” with the opportunity to win \$22,500 in scholarships. Look to the District announcements for information and come to the District meetings to gather insight, suggestions, and hear of the joy of doing this for our kids!

The deadlines for the contest are:

Local Club contest winners received by the Lt. Governors: March 3, 2023

Zone contest: March 24, 2023

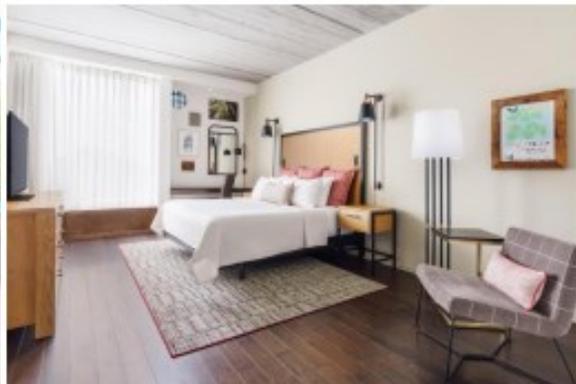
Area contest: April 8, 2023

District Contest: April 22, 2023

Again, we look forward, WITH YOUR HELP, having another record breaking year in both participants and clubs.

The contest is open to students under the age of 19 by October 1, 2022. Students must enter in the District in which they reside.

GATEway News



500 College Avenue
Athens, GA 30601
www.indigoathens.com
706.546.0430

Complimentary WiFi for guests and meetings
One block from downtown with 150+ dining, shopping, & entertainment venues
24-hour fitness center
Flat screen TV's; spa inspired showers with Aveda products
Security on-site; dedicated parking lot with secure access to lobby & guest elevators
Gallery @ Hotel Indigo-Athens featuring quarterly exhibits of artwork
IHG Rewards Club points awarded for every stay
Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Award-Winning Hotel
Exceptional Rate @ \$129 per night/Onsite parking @ \$5.00 per night

Call the Hotel Indigo directly for reservations at 1-866-808-1483 & reference Gateway District Optimist International (block code: GDO). A booking link will also be provided. Hotel cut-off date is **December 21, 2022**.

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">GATEway Registration</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Second Quarter Conference, January 20-22, 2023 Hotel Indigo - Athens 300 College Avenue Athens, GA 30601</p>	
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<u>Optimist's Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	
<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	
<u>City, State, Zip</u>	Is this your first District Meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Club Number</u>	<u>Zone Number</u>
<u>Club Office 2022-2023</u>	<u>District Office 2022-2023</u>	

Complete this section only if Spouse/Guest is registering:		
<u>Spouse/Guest Name</u>	Is this Spouse/Guest first District Meeting? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Will your Spouse/Guest attend: <input type="checkbox"/> General Sessions and/or <input type="checkbox"/> Meals		
<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Club Number</u>	<u>Zone Number</u>
<u>Club Office 2022-2023</u>	<u>District Office 2022-2023</u>	

Additional Information about the Hotel:

Hotel Indigo is the eco-friendly boutique hotel with sophisticated updated accommodations in the heart of historic Athens, GA., located one block from the vibrant downtown area where dining, shopping, and entertainment venues abound. **A parking fee will be charged for overnight guests. The parking rate is \$5 per night.**

Additional Information about Spouse/Guest Activities and Children's Activities:

There will be no separate off-site activities planned for spouses/guests at this conference. Guests are invited to attend General Session meetings and meal functions. **There are no special activities planned for children at this conference.**

Registration Fees:

- **Full Registration for Member will include:** All meetings, breaks, Saturday lunch, Saturday night banquet, and Sunday breakfast
- **Full Registration for Spouse/Guest will include:** All meetings, breaks, Saturday lunch, Saturday night banquet, and Sunday breakfast

		Dietary Needs	
Optimist	\$135.00 before 01/06/23, \$145.00 after 01/06/23 or on-site		\$
Spouse/Guest	\$135.00 before 01/06/23, \$145.00 after 01/06/23 or on-site		\$
One Day	\$40.00 (includes meetings and breaks only)		\$

Individual tickets may be purchased for the following:

Saturday Lunch	_____	at \$40.00	_____	\$
Saturday Night Banquet	_____	at \$60.00	_____	\$
Sunday Breakfast	_____	at \$35.00	_____	\$

Total Enclosed: \$

Notice: When purchasing individual tickets, Optimist members must pay the \$40 Daily Registration fee in addition to the meal ticket price for each day registered.

Make checks payable to "GATEway District Optimist International" and send with registration form to: David Harter, 7616 Navarre Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Pre-registration must be postmarked no later than **Friday, January 6, 2023**. Cancellation, if necessary, must be made no later than **Friday, January 13, 2023**. You may reach David by email at davidhartertn@yahoo.com or by phone at 865-250-1511.

Make hotel accommodations by calling the Hotel Indigo-Athens directly at 1-866-808-1483 and reference Gateway District Optimist International (block code: GDO). Or use the following link: [GATEway District Conference January 20-22](#). From there select the room type (Rate \$129.00/Standard King or Standard Double Queen Beds). Hotel cut-off date is **December 21, 2022**. After that date, room rates may increase and reservations will depend on availability.

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

GATEway Optimist
P. O. Box 1160
Carrollton, Georgia 30112

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.

