

“The smile of a child makes it all worthwhile!”

Why do we do the things we do as Optimists? Why do we participate at the District and even the International level? There are many reasons, but I think this year’s theme, “The smile of a child makes it all worthwhile!” helps to sum it up. A few years ago, I saw a child smiling at an Optimist Club function. It suddenly hit me, that’s why we do what we do as Optimists! That child’s smile made it all worthwhile to me, and the collective smiles from children through our District and beyond just help to further emphasize the importance of being an Optimist. We don’t always even see the children who are smiling, but we know they’re there. I’ve remembered that phrase ever since and thought it would be a good way to help us all focus for this new year. I’m glad that so many of you have commented favorably about it!



Because bringing out the best in kids is only part of it



Georgia Optimists | I’m really excited about the way in which the Georgia District came out of the gates at the beginning of our new Optimist year. New members have been added to our rosters in many different clubs. The Cedartown Optimist Club led the way by bringing in 14 new members with more planned in the near future! As a result, we enjoyed being number one, even though we have temporarily lost this position. Please continue to focus on the importance of growth through bringing in new members and new Optimist clubs. By increasing our overall membership, we can increase our overall service to theyouth and to our communities! | I’m also excited about the activities planned for our first quarter conference in Augusta, November 1-3, and we’re looking forward to a big turn-out! Our Southeast Region Vice-President, Lois Philbrick, will be our special guest. Also, Optimist International New Club Building Chair AND Certified International Trainer (CIT), Sandy Larivee, will be on hand to add to our wonderful training that is scheduled for everyone. In addition to the “normal” fun, we’re going to have a tailgate party while watching the UGA-Florida football

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Latest...

The “Staying Alive” Program

District Governor Hal Sewell has introduced the “Staying Alive” program in order to promote a spirit of growth, camaraderie and outreach among clubs in the Georgia District. The purpose of the program is to encourage clubs to reach out and assist neighboring clubs to build membership. This can be accomplished by helping to promote and conduct a New Optimists Welcome (NOW) function, assist in manning a “membership recruitment” table at functions such as Oratorical Contests and/or fundraisers, or by simply mentioning the club to people in that area. Clubs that are interested in working in cooperation with a neighboring club to build membership can contact the Club Services Chair to arrange to receive or offer assistance within their zone. By working together, neighboring clubs can help each other to “Stay Alive” and continue to “Bring Out The Best In Kids.”

Cathy Robinson
Club Services Chair
ac325@msn.com

(“Georgia Optimists” continued from page 1)

game on the big screen, AND we’re having a special Halloween costume party/dance on Saturday night. Thank you for your focus on “bringing out the best in kids.” I look forward to our continued successes through the coming year!

Hal Sewell, 2013-2014 Governor



COME JOIN THE FUN!

Come join in the fun, be entertained, be informed, be motivated and be part of the family at the Georgia District’s First Quarter Conference in Augusta, Georgia November 1-3, 2013. Governor Hal and his team have planned an exciting conference for you that includes:

- professional development and club officer training
- a tailgate party for the Georgia-Florida Game
- a Halloween party and dance

So, pack up your pom-poms, pick out your favorite Halloween costume, put on your dancing shoes and come ready to have the time of your life!

**“THE TRAINING
AND HOSPITALITY
WERE OUTSTANDING!
LOOKING FORWARD
TO A GREAT YEAR!”**

Sea Palms Convention Attendee

- Optimist International Vice President’s visit
- Optimist International New Club Building Chair Sandy Larivee with the latest ideas on how to build a new club
- Professional Development Seminars

Send registration to Betty Turley, 4389 Westfield Dr., SW, Mableton, GA 30126 no later than Friday, October 25, 2013. Doubletree Hotel Augusta, rate is \$99.00. (706) 855-8100. Hotel cut-off date is October 17, 2013

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is only part of it

I am a 
Georgia Optimist

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Membership

You're doing great, we're number one, Growing our club is lots of fun.

The Governor has challenged you with NET: plus one, Join your mother, your daughter and even your son,

New members are the answer to a lot of things, Show me the numbers and let's see what it brings.

Happiness to Children that's what we do, Your works not done until you recruit one or two.

Get those members and get them now and today, Cause if you don't, Gov. Hal will surely make me pay!

We're all accountable so don't you doodle, Get creative and smart and use that noodle.

See you in Augusta at the best conference yet, You'll have more fun than ever, I'm willing to bet.

Bring a new member and a couple first timers, I ran out of verses and got no rhymers!

*Kindest Regards,
Russell A. Thomas
Governor-Elect & Membership Chair
2013-2014*

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New Club Building Update

Wow, there has been a lot of interest and great ideas suggested about new clubs this year. The first Zone to organize the formation of a new club is Zone Five, with the Lt. Governor and President of Athens University to form a new club in Winder, GA. Many prospects have been contacted, and interest is growing. This is great work from Lt. Governor Sandy McKay and her group of people in Winder. If you know anyone from Winder that would be a great prospect, contact Sandy.

Other interesting new club possibilities include:

- Zone 1: Lookout Mountain, from Lt. Governor Sarah Moore
- Zone 2: Dalton State College, from Lt. Governor Bob Williams
- Zone 3: Holly Springs, as well as reviving Ball Ground, from Lt. Governor Robin Wright
- Zone 4: Possibilities in Forsyth, Gwinnett, and Hall County, from Lt. Governor Michele Sansenbach
- Zone 5: Winder, from Lt. Governor Sandy McKay
- Zone 6: Villa Rica, from Lt. Governor Dianna Johnson and Gerald Johnson
- Zone 7: Marietta and possibly East Cobb, from Lt. Governor Robert Kenney
- Zone 8: Business-oriented club, from Lt. Governor Gwen Gable and Nick Prillaman
- Zone 9: Opportunities in South DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Henry Counties, from Lt. Governor Albert Still and District Sec-Treas. Mary Still
- Zone 10: Harris County, from Lt. Governor Tony Bell and Governor Hal Sewell
- Zone 11: Considering building a club in an area of Macon not served and other surrounding counties, from Lt. Governor Ellen Strait
- Zone 12: Considering building a club in neighboring counties, from Lt. Governor Ceola Hannah
- Zone 13: Grovetown, from Lt. Governor Keith Duncan
- Zone 16: Wayne County and possibly a club in Liberty County in Zone 14, from Lt. Governor Diane Richardson



Lt. Governor Bob Williams has also suggested building a new club in Atlantic Station in the Atlanta area. To make this a reality, we may need a group of zones to consider working together to form the club.

Presidents and Lt. Governors, we have many opportunities. We just need to step into the batter's box and start a new club.... this is important for our kids.

Let me know how I can help, what you need, and when you need it.

*Johnny Young
770.345.6158*

Zone News

Zone 1

Lieutenant Governor Sarah Moore would like to announce that Zone 1 will have their first zone meeting at Cloudland Canyon State Park on October 22nd. She also reports that there is one new member to be added to their zone. This is great news!

Governor: Hal Sewell
Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Still
Governor-Elect: Russ Thomas

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www.georgiaoptimists.org

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Calendar Update

Oratorical Contest 2013-2014

Topic: **“How My Passions Impact the World”**

Contest deadlines will be:

Club: March 15, 2014

Zone: March 29, 2014

Area: April 12, 2014

District: April 27, 2014 (held at the Georgia District 3rd Quarter Conference in Columbus, GA)

For more information, please contact:

Jerry Loose

Email: loosej@bellsouth.net

Essay Contest 2013-2014

Topic: **“How Dreams Lead to Success”**

Timeline:

February 28, 2014 -- Club essays are to be completed and the winner forwarded to zone level competition.

March 14, 2014 -- Zone essays are to be completed and the winner forwarded to area level competition.

March 28, 2014 -- Area level essays are to be completed and the winner forwarded to the District Essay Chair for district judging.

April 11, 2014 -- District winner will be announced by this date.

For more information, please contact:

Rudy Corn

District Essay Chair

Email: bacorn2827@charter.net

2014 Leadership Summits

Start making plans to attend one near you! One day only! \$25.00 registration fee/ lunch included.

January 18, 2014 – Jacksonville, FL

February 22, 2014 – Atlanta, GA

March 1, 2014 – Charlotte, NC

For more information go to www.optimist.org/summit/