

“Optimism is an every day opportunity. What we do and how we do it will dictate the legacy we leave for the future generations of Optimists.”

Governor Russ Thomas



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

# Bits ‘n Peaches

[www.georgiaoptimists.org](http://www.georgiaoptimists.org)

October 2014



Hello Georgia and Tennessee Optimists,

**“Tempus Fugit!”** This is Latin for “Time Flies”! The reality is, that unlike any other time in our Optimist history, this phrase is more critical and truer than ever before. Today we can’t afford to waste a single moment. We can’t afford to be complacent. We can’t afford to look at each other and assume that he’ll or she’ll do it! If we are waiting for someone else to step up and take charge of our destiny, it won’t happen. Here’s the truth of the matter... as Optimists we must each lead the victory charge, and individually we must do what it takes to serve the children of our communities.

Optimism is an every day opportunity. What we do and how we do it will dictate the legacy we leave for the future generations of Optimists. We must each get back to the basics of Optimism. We must be supportive of each other. We must be positive and we must share the gift of Optimism with our friends, our family, our Church members, our business constituents and every one around us. We will change the direction of each of our districts. We will speak words of encouragement. We will believe that what we do saves children’s lives.

(continued on page 2)

# Bits ‘n Peaches

## Thank you Past Governor Hal Sewell!

**O**n behalf of the Great Georgia District, we want to thank you for your guidance and leadership that has enabled us to reach a level of excellence that many districts couldn't attain, Number 3! Because of you we have and will continue to serve more children than ever before. We are truly in better shape today than when we started the year off.

*Your example has motivated us to be the Best of the Best. We thank you for your time and energy. The membership, Clubs, Zones and District have benefited because of your service.*

*We are proud that you were our leader, and each of us is a better person and a better Optimist because of you.*

*The bar has been raised!  
"We BELIEVE<sup>10</sup>"*

*"The Smile of a Child makes it all Worth While"*

*We will continue to build your legacy. We will show our appreciation for your service by building more clubs and increasing the membership! But most importantly we will show our appreciation by serving even more children in 2014-2015!*

*On behalf of the Georgia District,  
We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.  
Governor Russ Thomas*

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Tempus Fugit (continued from page 1)

Today we must re-energize ourselves. We must celebrate growth. We must experience the re-birth of an Optimist era! We are Optimists!

I promise you that if you do three simple things, growth will come.

1. Communicate
2. Serve
3. Celebrate

You remember your mom or dad saying "If you can't say something positive, don't say anything at all?" Here's what I say: **SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE!**

Optimistically yours,  
Governor Russ Thomas

## A Note of Thanks from Hal

Georgia Optimists:

I want to thank you all for your service and support during our 2013-2014 year that ended on September 30. The Georgia District has definitely grown stronger while focusing more on our service to the youth and to our communities.



I appreciate all the feedback that we've received during the year, especially regarding our conferences and our convention. Your 2013-2014 leadership team did a great job in planning these events and making them realities, while also allowing everyone to have fun in the process.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Governor this past Optimist year. Vicki and I enjoyed being with Optimists from all over our state, as we all worked together in "bringing out the best in kids."

Why do we all do what we do as Optimists? "The smile of a child makes it all worthwhile!"

Yours in Optimism,  
Hal Sewell, Immediate Past Governor  
Georgia District of Optimist International

## Introducing the Optimist Club of the Year Award

**T**he Optimist Club of the Year award for 2013-14 will be presented to the most outstanding Club in each Region. For criteria and to view a judging form, please visit [www.optimist.org/cluboftheyear](http://www.optimist.org/cluboftheyear). Submissions can be sent to [recognition@optimist.org](mailto:recognition@optimist.org).

All clubs wishing to participate must submit an application to Optimist International no later than January 31, 2015 for the Optimist year ending September 30, 2014.

Recipients of the "Optimist Club of the Year" will receive one paid convention registration, a banner patch, an award, and the opportunity to compete for the Overall Optimist Club of the Year.

The Optimist Club of the Year will also be awarded during the 2014-2015 year. Information about the 2014-15 Optimist Club of the Year award will be included in future editions of the Georgia District Newsletter.

## Membership Is Our Life Blood!

Here in the great Georgia District of Optimist International we are mightily blessed with over 1,670 dedicated Club members. We are one of the top Districts in all of Optimist International. What a wonderful feeling we enjoy as we wear our lapel pins to show our pride.

So often people ask us, "What is an Optimist Club, and what do y'all do?" How many times have you been asked? The answer is as obvious as tall cotton and as short as winter in South Georgia--"We all possess a positive outlook on life, and we are in the business of bringing out the best in kids." The nifty thing is that we benefit as much as the kids do. It's like winning the lottery, but it doesn't cost as much!

One of the challenges of Optimism is keeping this wonderful organization healthy and functioning to its fullest capability. For a variety of reasons, over time we lose members who cannot be with us any longer. Realizing that membership is the lifeblood of any organization, we understand the need for strong, growing Clubs.

The great thing is that American people want to work on worthy causes. People want to be involved in their communities. People want to spend time with others who have a cheerful attitude, who are passionate and willing to give of their time and energies in service to their community. People want to encourage children to be the best they can be. People truly want to be asked to join!

Now is the time for us to ensure our District remains a force in Georgia and in Optimist International as well. Like Casey Stengel, we step up to the plate, remembering we cannot strike out! We will make people happy by just asking them to join our Club. Just ask!

Harry Hackett  
Membership Chair



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## Georgia Statistics at a Glance

(as of 9/29/2014)

<i>Total Clubs</i>	67
<i>Total Membership</i>	1731
<i>New Club Members Since October 1, 2013</i>	344
<i>New Clubs Since October 1, 2013</i>	2

***“Bringing Out  
the Best in Kids  
since 1939”***

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

## New Club Building in 4 Steps

It is no secret that we need new Clubs in the Georgia District, and the 2014-2015 Leadership Team has made the commitment to add a record-breaking number of Clubs this year. These new club building steps were presented at the Leadership Retreat at Lake Blackshear Resort in September.

### Step 1: Needs Assessment

A needs assessment is exploring the way things are versus the way they could be within a community. This first step is simply identifying the purposes of the new Optimist Club. What are some opportunities for service within the community? How could a Club help bring this about? Can a Club achieve the desired results? What are the costs and benefits of a Club to the community?

### Step 2: Recruitment

Recruitment is simply the process of adding like-minded individuals to an Optimist Club for the purposes of “Bringing Out the Best in Kids!”

### Step 3: Meetings

Meetings are the process of coming together as an assembly for a common purpose during the formation of an Optimist Club. There are two types of meetings in New Club building—Informational and Organizational. Informational meetings are held to inform prospective members about the mission, values, and structure of Optimist Clubs and to identify service opportunities within the community.

### Step 4: Follow-Up

Follow-up is the ongoing process, led by the District, ensuring that each New Club becomes a strong, viable asset with effective leadership that provides excellent service to the community.



## Optimist International Board Seeks Input from Members

**A**s part of their ongoing strategic planning, the members of the International Board of Directors are seeking input from Optimist Club members. The Board would like to hear your ideas on the direction the organization should go in the near future, as well as specific ideas to solve some of the ongoing concerns, such as declining membership. All ideas are welcome and will be considered as part of the Board's long range planning. You may send your comments and ideas directly to the Board at [structure@optimist.org](mailto:structure@optimist.org).

**REMEMBER!  
OCTOBER IS  
BREAST CANCER  
AWARENESS  
MONTH!**



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## The Divine Secret Building of the Ya Ya Sisterhood Optimist Club

*By Sandy MacKay, Athens-University  
Georgia District*



This true story begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2014 and ends less than 24 hours later with a brand new Club being chartered in the Georgia District.

On this sultry summer evening of the 15th on St. Simon's Island, the Georgia District was in the midst of a discussion of growth during the Executive Committee meeting. Optimist International Past President Jack Creswell – who happened to be visiting the convention with his wife, a newly-elected member of the Optimist International Board of Directors, Sue Creswell – issued a challenge to the Georgia District. Whoever brings in a new Club, with at least 20 members, before September 30th could spend a weekend with him and Sue as their guests in Reading, PA.

(continued on page 6)

## Participate in the Community Project Awards and Win

**T**here is still time to submit your Club's entry for the Best in Writing or Best in Film categories of the 2013-2014 Community Projects Awards.

*In the Best Film category, Clubs are asked to showcase their project in a 10-minute video clip. The questions from the CPA Project Story should be answered during the video, and the entry must be submitted on a CD. In the Best Writing CPA category, Clubs are asked to complete the Project Story, and instead of printing it and the supporting documents, save these details to a CD in .pdf format.*

*Clubs can submit as many entries as they like in either of the categories. However, each project may only be entered in one category. All entries must be submitted to Optimist International on a non-returnable CD in either .pdf or .wp4 format by December 15. Your Club could win \$500 to help carry out your work in the community!*

*If you have questions, contact the Programs department at (800) 500-8130 or [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).*

(Ya Ya continued from page 5)

Little did Jack know his challenge would soon be accepted!

Joey Richardson and Anita Still began to talk about new ideas to build a non-traditional Club that would serve the entire state. Through their conversation, ideas grew and flourished. But where would the new members come from? We have non-members who attend our District meetings who want to be involved, but they don't want to belong to a traditional Club. They want to help, but are not quite sure how.

Here's how. The idea of a non-traditional, unconventional, all-female sisterhood of Optimists, the Ya Ya Sisterhood Optimist Club, was born. As the women talked, the list of charter members began to grow. By 7:30, Friday evening, we already had 10 charter members! At 9:30 on Friday night, several members met with New Club Building Chair Johnny Young to make sure we could build the Club in our time frame. If we could get the members, we could build the Club.

At 9:00 on Saturday morning, we had 25 charter members. The Sisterhood was growing. We talked to members. We talked to non-members, wives, significant others, daughters, friends. We talked to anyone who would listen.

Governor Hal Sewell and most of the men had no idea what was taking place. It was, after all, the Georgia Convention, and our concern was carrying out the duties of the District. And we did. We attended classes. We participated in the Optimist boardwalk booths. We went on tours. All was well at the District Convention.

By 2:00, Saturday afternoon, we had the 15 new members required to bring in the Club. These members brought the total to 28. In a whirlwind of paperwork – all sorts of new Club documents, applications, and money – the excitement was growing! We were almost unable to contain ourselves. By 4:00, we had 35 members, and the group was still growing.

At 6:00 on Saturday evening, the charter meeting of the Ya Ya Sisterhood Optimist Club was held. Sue Creswell, the visiting OI representative, oversaw the meeting, insuring that applications and charter fees were collected. With contagious excitement, Sue joined the Sisterhood. Our friends, Essie and Katherine from the Tennessee District, joined the group as well – 41 women in total. Four officers and six Board members were elected. A tiara was presented to each Ya Ya, and we were off to the Governor's Banquet.

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

# Bits ‘n Peaches

## From the Optimist International President

**O**n behalf of children everywhere and especially in your own community, I would like to thank you for what you have done in the past, what you are currently doing, and the greater things that you will do in the future.

*Many Optimists devote countless hours, dollars, and mental consideration toward making a difference in their community. Some even extend their involvement and devotion to other communities by sharing ideas, assisting in hands on projects, and helping to organize clubs to continue to work on the ground floor. The difference that they make may never be known directly, but their impact is great. I would encourage each of you make that kind of impact.*

*As you move into this year, I would encourage you to simply be **THE BEST** you at doing the job, assignment, or role you have committed to undertake. Leave your mark on that role so that others can use you as a benchmark in the future.*

*Thank you again for helping us Bring out **THE BEST** in kids, ourselves, and everyone with whom we come into contact. May they truly be blessed by our efforts, and may we feel the true joy in giving.*

*Optimistically,  
Ken Garner  
Optimist International  
President 2014-15*

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(more Ya Ya)


At 7:15, the banquet began with over 110 people in attendance. Governor Hal Sewell still had no idea of what was about to happen, but he was told that the agenda would have a few changes. The Ya Yas were ready to take over!

By 8:30, the Governor's Luau banquet was well under way. Dinner had been served, awards were presented, and the incoming officers were installed. Conference and Convention Chair Rose Kohler presented a clean napkin to Governor Hal and told him to hold on to it because he was going to need it. Rose and New Club Building Chair, Johnny Young, then approached the podium and began to talk about building new Clubs and the challenges we face. The Ya Yas in the audience began putting on their tiaras. Rose told Governor Hal that a new Club had been built in less than 24 hours. That's when the celebration began. The Ya Yas jumped up, threw their hands in the air and shouted "YA YA!" Governor Hal thought it was a joke. Sue assured him that the Club had indeed chartered just before the banquet began. At that point, Hal picked up the napkin Rose had given him earlier and wiped tears of joy from his eyes. With a catch in his voice he said, "It truly is a wonderful life!"

The crowd was stunned by the Ya Ya's accomplishment. With excitement, smiles, laughter, and many tears of happiness, the song "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang began to play. The Ya Yas danced in a line around the room, high-fiving the crowd. With so many charter members, no one knew where the line began or ended. It was one big circle – a sisterhood ready to work for the Georgia District.

On Sunday morning, Jack Creswell installed the newly-elected officers and Board members, and then installed all 49 charter members of the Club.

The Ya Ya Sisterhood Optimist Club will hold meetings at every District conference. At each location, the Club will complete a service project that is needed in the area. For example, we are looking at Eagle Ranch Children's Home – a home for nearly 70 boys and girls in crisis and in need of hope and healing – as our first project.

With charter members from Georgia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Alabama, we are so proud of our amazing Club! This Optimist Sisterhood was conceived, built, and chartered in less than 24 hours. Are you ready to build your Club? 



# Bits 'n Peaches

## Catch a Rising Star

### Note from the Governor-Elect

*Hello Fellow Optimists,  
As we plan for the future and a  
realignment of the great Georgia and  
Tennessee Optimist Districts in the  
2015-2016 year, I wish to take this  
time to welcome all of you.*

*This realignment will allow us to  
become one of the strongest Districts  
in Optimist International. It is my  
desire to find those passionate and  
dedicated Optimists among us to be  
a member of our various committees  
in the realigned District--committees  
and a District that promotes our love  
and dedication to the youth and the  
communities we live in.*

*Attached is an application that asks  
for your name and interests. If you  
have an interest, a passion, or need  
that is not listed, please write it in or  
mark the application and return.*

*Over the next several conferences, we  
will have time set aside to discuss the  
needs of the future and talk to those  
interested in participating on the  
committees of the realigned District.  
These sessions will be called  
"Catch a Rising Star."*

*I'm looking forward to the future and  
meeting all of you. "I Believe" with  
your passion, dedication, and involve-  
ment, we will be the "strongest"  
District in Optimist International.*

*In closing remember, "A smile of a  
child makes it all worthwhile".*

*Yours in Optimism,  
Tony Bell  
Georgia District Governor-Elect*

**(See Registration Form on page 10)**

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## JOOI News

Dear Georgia Optimists and JOOI Club Members:  
Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) is an organization dedicated to youth serving and improving their communities. As JOOI members, we constantly strive to make a positive impact in the areas where we live. And there is no better way to serve than with a group of friends by your side.



The 2014-2015 Georgia District Board would like to invite the twenty-one JOOI Clubs in Georgia to participate in one large group project. This year, the Georgia District Board officers would like to see more interaction between the JOOI Clubs. We hope to build stronger connections between all of our Clubs. A collaborative group project is a great way to learn more about each individual Club and their service projects, while serving our community and making new friends at the same time.

Please be a part of our very first JOOI District project!

**WHAT?** "Boo At The Zoo"

**WHERE?** Atlanta Zoo

**WHEN?** Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 12 noon-4:00 pm

The "Boo at the Zoo" event is a Halloween Festival where families participate in a variety of fun activities and games at the Atlanta Zoo. As volunteers, we will help by handing out candy at treat booths, assisting as costume characters, and participating as greeters at craft activities or anything else where we're needed. Helping out at this festival will be a fun experience you will not want to miss!

Hope to see you there! If your Club has any questions, please contact our Georgia District JOOI Chair, John McGowan, at [jmm731@gmail.com](mailto:jmm731@gmail.com) or 770-364-3617.

Sincerely,

Denika Nickeo, Georgia District JOOI Governor

Sarah Dismukes, Georgia District JOOI Secretary

Randalyn Brinker, Lt. Governor





## CCC History

*The Childhood Cancer Campaign was established by Optimist International in 2001 with the mission of "being the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer."*

*Since the program's inception, Clubs in every District, as well as Georgia, have participated in various activities focused on building awareness of the disease, providing assistance for children and their families, and supporting research to find a cure.*

## Childhood Cancer Campaign 2014-2015

A Message from Georgia District CCC Chair Linda Brown,  
lbb1144@att.net or (H) 770-965-9075

October 2014 is the beginning of a new year for Optimist Clubs throughout Georgia, and I would like to welcome all of our new leaders. I also encourage all Club Presidents to include in your planning the appointment of a CCC chair, along with a committee to seek out opportunities to serve children with cancer and their families. I can't imagine any member of your Club not being willing to support our motto:

**"PROVIDING THE CARE...FINDING THE CURE"**

Optimist International has declared June as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Let's not wait until then . . . let's begin in October 2014.

Please be sure your CCC chair registers with Optimist International, and send me the contact information also. I will have information available throughout the year that I need to share with the great Clubs in the Georgia District.

Program materials and CCC resources can be accessed through the Optimist International website, or by contacting the Program Department via e-mail at [ccc@optimist.org](mailto:ccc@optimist.org) or calling Danielle Baugher at (800) 500-8130 Ext 235.



## Start Planning Your Club Scholarship Contests

Conducting a scholarship contest is a great way to get publicity for your Club and establish a relationship with the local school system. It allows your Club to meet young people you can work with in the future and parents who may be interested in becoming Optimist Members.

The topics for the 2014-2015 scholarship contests are:

**Essay: "Optimism Should Be A Priority"**

**Oratorical/CCDHH: "How My Optimism Will Help Me Press On To Greater Achievements of the Future"**

Be sure to attend our First Quarter Meeting at Chateau Élan to learn more about these contests from our District Chairs. Additional information, including the contest planning guides, can also be found at [www.optimist.org/scholarships](http://www.optimist.org/scholarships).

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## Realigned Georgia-Tennessee District Optimist International Interest Finder for Year 2015-2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate any and all areas of current interest in District participation:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant Governor               | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Development            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Achievements and Awards           | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities                        | <input type="checkbox"/> New Club Building                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Editor                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Growth & Involvement     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplain                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood Cancer Campaign         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Webmaster        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Services                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Optimist International Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contests (Oratorical/CCDHH/Essay) | <input type="checkbox"/> Registrar                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant-at-Arms                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance/Child Abuse             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Relations           | <input type="checkbox"/> Supply                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Golf Championship          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Clubs                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other : _____                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference and Convention         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided                         |  |

### **Paul Revere Returns to the USA as a Guest of the St. Simon's Island Optimist Club**

Did you say Paul Revere returned to St. Simon's Island?? YES! Lt. Governor Diane Richardson reports that on September 11th historian John E. Turrentine presented a portrayal of the historical figure Paul Revere and gave a superb accounting of his life experiences through dramatic stories and actual props. John and his Chapter are invited to many school systems to share information about American History and the Revolution with children. John told the Club members that he has a genealogist in the group who can provide assistance if we are interested in discovering our historical past. To learn more about John and his Chapter, you may visit the website at [www.turrentinemivh.com](http://www.turrentinemivh.com).





## Congratulations and the Grant Goes To . . .

*The Optimist International Foundation awards matching grants to 20 Optimist Clubs annually to help support a new charitable project. On behalf of the Club Grant Committee, the Foundation recently announced the 2014 Club Grant program recipients in the summer edition of The Optimist Magazine. And a winner was honored from Georgia:*

***“Quilts for Kids” sponsored by the Hall County Optimist Club, Gainesville, GA***

*Each winning Club was awarded a \$500 matching grant at the International Convention in Las Vegas this past July.*

*For more information about this OIF grant program, please visit [www.oifoundation.org/programs/club-grant-program](http://www.oifoundation.org/programs/club-grant-program) or call the Foundation office at (800) 500-8130. Your Club could be a winner in 2015!*

*Congratulations to the Hall County Optimist Club for their achievement!*

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## OPTIMIST OF THE YEAR

The “Big John” Ware Optimist of the Year Award is designed to recognize excellence in Optimist service and leadership. On the evening of August 16, 2014, at the 67th Georgia District Convention, this prestigious award was presented to H. Nick Prillaman, Jr. Currently a member of the Atlanta-Buckhead Optimist Club, Nick has been a member of our organization since 1985. He served as Governor of the Georgia District in 1992-1993, as well as Optimist International Vice-President in 2001-2002.

Hal Sewell presented the award and said, “Nick has meant so much to the Georgia District during the 2013-2014 Optimist year, as well as for many years before this one.” Yes indeed. Helping to strengthen the Georgia District and serving more kids has always been foremost on his mind.

In the past few years Nick has assumed an important role in the success of the Georgia District. During the 2013-2014 Optimist year, he served as the Leadership Development Chair. In this capacity he helped to encourage ideas for effective training; provided and helped execute concepts for great quarterly meetings; developed innovative agendas and workshops; and promoted a multitude of programs through the production of countless flyers, ads, and bulletins. He also helped to create and edit our Georgia District newsletter. Nick gives of his time and resources unselfishly, so that we all, as Georgia Optimists, can achieve.

He has filled countless leadership positions at the Club and District level. At the same time he frequently assists other Districts as a Certified International Trainer by providing instructional materials and his teaching skills to help ensure their success. Nick has also been instrumental at the international level, lending his expertise to various committees, serving as both member and chair.

Nick Prillaman is always happy to help however and whenever he can. When he calls or sends you an email, it is not unusual for him to start by saying, “I hope you are having a fantastic day!” He exudes Optimism in all that he does, including his “Feel Good” cheer. And he never stops. We always know something great is about to happen when Nick begins to think out loud. He generally starts with, “What if we . . .” At that point we’re off and running—pressing on to the greater achievements of the future!

Nick is a true leader and one who constantly strives to share his friendship, commitment, expertise, and love of the Great Georgia District with everyone around him. He is devoted to the purposes of Optimism. For everything he has done and all that he has helped us achieve, H. Nick Prillaman, Jr. is truly the 2014 “Big John” Ware Optimist of the Year. Congratulations to Nick!



# Bits 'n Peaches



## All Star PGI

*This year our theme is All Star PGI. Each level a Club member achieves will count as a run scored for their Club. There will be a "Scoreboard" at each conference with the World Series Champion Club winner presentation at our 4th quarter District Convention. If a Club has 100% membership participation in PGI, there will be a special award and presentation. Level 10 achievements will hit a home run with extra points awarded to his/her Club.*

*Let's hit some home runs this year!*

## Optimists Reach PGI Goals

*Congratulations to the following Georgia Optimists who submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth and Involvement Program, as of April 7, 2014, and as reported in The Optimist Magazine.*

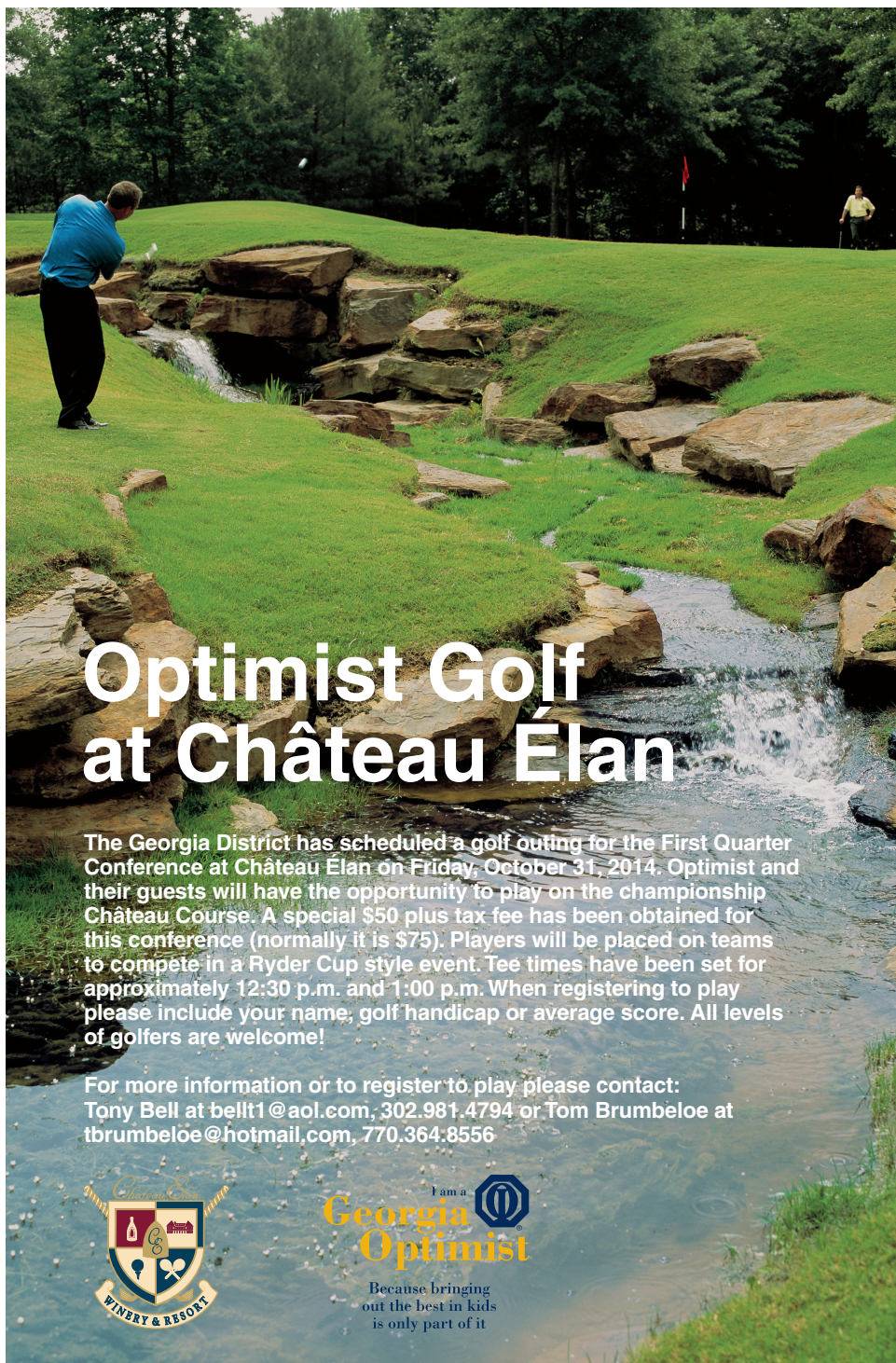
### PGI Level VII Recipients

*Thomas Brumeloe,  
Canton Optimist Club  
Albert Still, Tucker Optimist Club  
Russ Thomas,  
Sawnee Cumming Optimist Club*

### PGI Level X Recipients

*Joey Richardson,  
Summerville-Trion Optimist Club  
Mary Still, Tucker Optimist Club*



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## Optimist Golf at Château Élan

The Georgia District has scheduled a golf outing for the First Quarter Conference at Château Élan on Friday, October 31, 2014. Optimist and their guests will have the opportunity to play on the championship Château Course. A special \$50 plus tax fee has been obtained for this conference (normally it is \$75). Players will be placed on teams to compete in a Ryder Cup style event. Tee times have been set for approximately 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. When registering to play please include your name, golf handicap or average score. All levels of golfers are welcome!

For more information or to register to play please contact:  
Tony Bell at [bellt1@aol.com](mailto:bellt1@aol.com), 302.981.4794 or Tom Brumeloe at [tbrumeloe@hotmail.com](mailto:tbrumeloe@hotmail.com), 770.364.8556



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# Bits 'n Peaches

## 2014-2015 PGI: Personal Growth and Involvement

*District Chairman:*  
**Kathy Forster**  
*Email:* kforster428@gmail.com  
*Phone:* (256) 371-0062


*PGI is your passport to personal development, increased member involvement, and Club growth. Participation in PGI offers members the opportunity for personal growth while working at their own pace.*

*Each Club should appoint a Club Director of Personal Growth. The level achievements for each member should be submitted to the District Chairman. These records will then be forwarded to Optimist International for the awards to be presented at each District meeting. The deadline dates are indicated on the submission form.*

*Reports are due October 5th, January 5th, April 5th, and July 5th in order to receive the levels from Optimist International to present at the District Conferences or the Convention.*

Governor: Russ Thomas  
Secretary: Gwen Gable  
Treasurer: Tony Bell  
Governor-Elect: Tony Bell

Editor: Deanna Morrow  
Design/Layout: Brenda Basey

[www.georgiaoptimists.org](http://www.georgiaoptimists.org)  
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**H**aving fun is an important part of the Optimist experience. It is a proven fact that people who are having fun and enjoying themselves learn more, relate better, and develop a more optimistic outlook on life. If you and your fellow club members want to have some fun, be entertained, be informed, be motivated, and be part of the awesome Optimist family, then you don't want to miss the Georgia District's First Quarter Conference at Château Élan October 31 - November 2, 2014. Governor Russ and his leadership team are putting together a "Fun Extravaganza" for you that includes:

- a visit from Optimist International President Ken Garner
- golf on the championship Chateau course
- installation of the 2014-2015 District Board
- professional development and club officer training
- defining Optimist moments – stories of inspiration
- a presentation by STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) students
- motivational speaker Christine M. Roberts
- a visit from the "King" himself – "Elvis"
- a Rock n' Roll party and dance.

So, slick back your hair, squeeze into those skinny jeans, grab that poodle skirt, put on your bobby socks and saddle locks, or your blue suede shoes, and come ready to be inspired, motivated, and have a ton of fun!

Register online at [www.georgiaoptimists.org](http://www.georgiaoptimists.org) or send registration to Mamie Copeland, 20 Mount Moriah Dr., Senoia, GA 30276 no later than Friday, October 24, 2014. Château Élan Winery & Resort, rate is \$109.00, 678.425.0900. Hotel cut-off date is Friday, October 10, 2014. Be sure to indicate you are with the Georgia District Optimist.

**"Are the conferences always this much fun?"**

First Timer at the Georgia District Convention at  
St. Simons, Island, Georgia


I am a   
**Georgia Optimist**

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

[www.georgiaoptimists.org](http://www.georgiaoptimists.org)

# Bits 'n Peaches

I am a   
**Georgia**  
**Optimist**



## ***Georgia District Rock n' Roll Party***

Come dressed as your favorite 50's or 60's character!  
Slick back your hair, squeeze into those skinny jeans, grab  
that poodle skirt, put on your bobby socks and saddle locks,  
or your blue suede shoes, and come ready to rock the night  
away and have a ton of fun!

**Georgia District First Quarter Conference**  
**Château Élan Winery & Resort, Braselton Georgia**  
**November 1, 2014 8:00 p.m.**

Register online at [www.georgiaoptimists.org](http://www.georgiaoptimists.org) or send registration to Marnie Copeland,  
20 Mount Moriah Dr., Senoia, GA 30276 no later than Friday, October 24, 2014.  
Château Élan Winery & Resort, rate is \$109.00, 678.425.0900.  
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Be sure to indicate you are with the Georgia District Optimist.

# Bits ‘n Peaches



"We can continue to do what we're doing and go the way of the dinosaurs , or we can **change our way of life**. Despite our penchant for destruction.

I am an **optimist**.—Dr. Bruce Lipton

GEORGIA AND TENNESSEE, IT'S TIME TO BELIEVE AGAIN!

As many of you look back on such a remarkable year with Governor Hal, we want you to remember to keep on working hard! One of the biggest challenges is when leadership changes in the local club, many Optimists think, I did my part last year, now it's time for someone else, so I ask, are you ready...are you ready...Georgia and Tennessee have a remarkable opportunity start a new day and move forward stronger than ever before, I would like to challenge each of you to get an Instagram account and let's spread our joy, by sharing your club's photo on Instagram by uploading it to #IAMANOPTIMIST (you don't have to capitalize it). I would like to see every Optimist Club, every Optimist shout out to the top of the world, "I am an Optimist!"

I look forward to seeing all of those awesome Optimist photos, don't wait, come on now, you can do it!! Instead of saying, we need to do this or that with our Marketing Program, let's get our mindset ready by simply taking a photo of an Optimist, Optimist Club, Optimist Poem or your favorite Optimist Quote, because Georgia and East Tennessee, Marketing....begins starts with you! - *David Jordan, Marketing Chair*