

“This year, my resolution is to help one person to be a better leader, a better motivator and a better coach!”

Governor Russ Thomas



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

## The Governor's Message

NEW YEAR  
NEW BEGINNINGS  
WISHES dreams  
CELEBRATE  
LOVE FRESH START  
FAMILY  
Resolutions

“Feliz Ano Nuevo,” “Buon Anno,” “Bonne Annee,” “Frohes Neues Jahr,” “Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit,” or we can just say, “Happy New Year!”

For me, the year-end brought family gatherings, life changing events, and time for honest reflection. As I venture into the New Year, like many Optimists, I write a list of New Year's resolutions. I look forward to this every year and always with great enthusiasm!

My basic resolutions are pretty easy, yet I tend to let them fade away as the year progresses. This year, my resolution—my most important resolution of all—is different. It is more important, more critical, and it has nothing to do with exercise and pushing back from the table!

This year, my resolution is to help one person be a better leader, a better motivator, and a better coach! *To help one member* understand that what we do saves Children's lives! *To encourage one member* to share the gift of Optimism! *To change one life* for the better! *To influence one person* to give in service to the community. *To help one person lead* with dignity. *To help one person* be a better example. **This person is me!** I must hold true to my resolution, because many Optimists and many Children will be affected. I must hold steadfast and be true to the Creed by which we all, as Optimists, live.

As we enter this New Year, I ask you to make this same resolution with me, for Optimism begins inside our hearts. **I BELIEVE** <sup>10</sup>

## Optimist Leadership Lending Library



**T**he District Leadership Development Team has gathered a wide selection of books on leadership to lend to our members. Come to the House of Optimism at the next conference, and pick a book to read. When you choose a book, you will be asked to fill out a checkout card and make a deposit of \$5.00. When you return the book at the next conference, your \$5.00 deposit will be returned to you! If you give us your email address, we will send you a reminder to bring the book back at the next conference.

For more details, please contact  
Albert Still at [albert\\_still@yahoo.com](mailto:albert_still@yahoo.com).

## Georgia District rolls out the Red Carpet for its Stars

I'm excited about the celebration that we will have at our District conference in February in which so many of our clubs will be recognized for their 2013-2014 accomplishments. Those involved will have been associated this past year with new Optimist Clubs that were built (YaYa Xpress Optimist Club and the Fairburn Optimist Club), clubs that earned Honor Club and Distinguished Club status, and the coveted Hall of Fame award (you'll find more information in a separate note from me regarding the Hall of Fame award).

**28 Georgia District Optimist Clubs achieved Honor Club status as well as 6 Clubs that earned Distinguished Club status. Everyone's collective efforts also helped the Georgia District to become a Distinguished District!**

Even more clubs will receive the "Bringing Out the Best" banner patch for completing at least 2 service projects, adding at least 1 member, being current on District and OI dues, and recognizing a Club member or community individual. This banner patch is not limited to those clubs that earned either Honor or Distinguished status.

Other awards will also be included at the upcoming conference's Saturday night banquet as well as recognition at other times during the weekend.

I'm proud of the outreach that all of our clubs have made this past year, and I'm happy that we will be recognizing such a large number of clubs at our second quarter conference.

Please come to the conference at Lake BlackShear to help everyone celebrate our accomplishments last year. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Optimism,

Hal Sewell  
2013-2014 Governor of a *Distinguished District*  
Georgia District of Optimist International

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## Winner! Winner! Chicken Dinner!



**A**nnouncing the winner of the \$100.00 for responding to the District survey. You never know when there may be another \$100.00 for just responding to an email from the District!

This gift of \$100.00 was personally donated by an Optimist member for just this purpose.

The winner of the \$100 drawing was John Arnold, a member of the Tucker Optimist Club.



*Athens Tennessee Optimist Club sports Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer for Christmas!*

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## Awards and Recognition Optimist Club of the Year Award Criteria

The Optimist Club of the Year award is presented annually to the most outstanding Club in each Region based upon the following criteria:

	Maximum Points
• Service projects sponsored by the Club	30 points
• Member Development Programs a year (i.e. PGI Program, Optimist International Conventions, etc.)	25 points
• Club Growth and Increased Community Awareness Campaigns (i.e. NOW Program, Marketing Campaign, etc.)	25 points
• Increased Volunteer Member Base	10 points
• New Community Efforts	10 points

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 “Overall Optimist Club of the Year” is the highest achievement an Optimist Club can attain in the Optimist organization. The eight “Optimist Clubs of the Year” will be judged and ranked by multiple judges. The recipient of this prestigious award will be chosen regardless of number of Members, or Region and will be known as the “Best Overall Club” in Optimist International.

The Club named the Overall Optimist Club of the Year will receive one round-trip airline ticket to the Optimist International Convention, a banner patch, an award and an article in The Optimist magazine and on the Optimist website.

# Bits ‘n Peaches



## Georgia Statistics at a Glance

(as of 12/31/2014)

Total Clubs	69
Total Membership	1783
Georgia District New Club Since October 1, 2014	+1
Net Membership Since October 1, 2014	+39
Ranking in Optimist International	3

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

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## New Club Building News



*Left to right: Mark Shriver, Dave Battaglini (Sergeant at Arms), Judy Christianson (Member At Large), TuKute (Member At Large), Karen Connelly (Member At Large), Keesla Blay-Miezah (Member At Large), Michael Vescio (Vice President), Larry Kaplan (President), Gov. Russ Thomas, Tina Balestier (Secretary/Treasurer) not pictured.*

If you really want to see optimism at its best, take part in the chartering of a New Club. Under the leadership of New Club Building Chair Charles Romano, New Club President Larry Kaplan, and Past International President Mark Shriver, the Georgia District of Optimist International will serve more children this year. With the help of Mark Shriver, on Wednesday night, December 10th, the “Atlanta Meetup Optimist Club” was chartered with 25 members, with the possibility of adding

ten more before the charter period ends. This New Club is sponsored by the North Perimeter Optimist Club.

Governor Russ Thomas spoke about the charter meeting, saying, “It was truly a great event, and as I sat there and watched all the faces, they are anxiously awaiting to get to work serving the children. It was a defining moment to see the passion in the new members’ eyes and was a site to marvel!”

It is going to be a fantastic year for New Club Building, and we are off to a great start. Lt. Governor Gerald Johnson from the Carrollton Club is working on a Club to charter in January that will possibly be the single largest new club ever! And that’s just the beginning. Jerry Loose and Nick Prillaman are working on a Club. Governor Russ and Abraham Walker also have a Club in the works.

Governor Russ is asking every Club, every Zone, and every member to share in the frenzy of excitement as we push the limits of Optimism and membership. It all starts with a simple question. “How would you like to be a member of the greatest children’s service organization in the world?” All we have to do is ask! Don’t be afraid!

Please welcome New Club President Larry Kaplan <tryto101@aol.com> and all the members of the Atlanta Meetup Club to the Georgia District of Optimist International.



## Atlanta Optimists Partner with the Bolton Academy



**O**n Thursday, November 6th, members of the Atlanta Optimist Club had the honor of judging entries in the Bolton Academy's annual Science Fair. Entries consisted of class projects for students in the lower grades, and individual or team projects for upper grade students. It was a great opportunity to meet with the students and have them explain their experiments and the outcomes.

And on Tuesday, November 16th, Club President, Harry Hackett, met with several groups of students at the Bolton Academy on Career Day. Harry discussed the printing business, and the students welcomed him warmly.

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## News from the Covington Club

On a late afternoon in November, the Covington Optimist Club braved the record setting low temperatures to celebrate the achievements of the Newton County Special Olympics Equestrian Team with a cookout.

Along with the Optimists, Teri and Ken Justice, owners of Cottonwood Farm, welcomed 60+ athletics, trainers, horse owners, and families to the cookout, which was complete with hamburgers, hotdogs, and of course, s'mores.

Optimist members of the newly chartered YaYa Xpress Optimist Club were on hand to assist with the setup and serving of the meal.

The Newton County Special Olympics Equestrian Team consists of 14 athletes with various special needs and disabilities, but also great talents. Their motto: When our athletes succeed, attitudes change, communities develop, and health and self-esteem are built!

The Covington Optimist Club would like to thank Ken and Teri Justice who make a difference in the community by providing a safe place for young riders to learn skills that will improve their self-confidence and ability to communicate.



## 100 By 100



**O**ptimist International's Board of Directors has set a goal of 100,000 members by the organization's 100th year in 2019. Your Club is urged to do its part in setting its own goal of increasing its membership between now and our 100 year anniversary. Help assure that your Club will be "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" well into the future.

*With Governor Russ Thomas' initiative to end the year +500, the Georgia District is doing our part to make this membership goal a reality!*

## International Community Projects Awards

**E**ffective September 30, 2014, the Community Projects Awards (CPA) program has been discontinued at the International level. Clubs are instead encouraged to submit their projects into the Club Showcase category of Reel Optimism. For more information regarding CPA, email [programs@optimist.org](mailto:programs@optimist.org).

*Even though the International Competition has ended, each District may choose to conduct their own yearly CPA contest in the future.*

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## Remember our Core Scholarship Contests

The Georgia District and Optimist International sponsors three scholarship contests for students to earn money to pursue opportunities in higher education: the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH), the Essay Contest and the Oratorical Contest. The contests are conducted at the Club level, then Zone and Regional (if necessary) and at the District level. District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations and awarded by Optimist International.

### Optimist International Essay Contest

**Topic:** "Optimism Should be a Priority"

**When:**

**Students:** All Club-level contests are held by early February. Student submissions will not be accepted after the Club-level contests have closed. Please contact your District Chair for more information.

**Clubs and Districts:** The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28, 2015. The deadline for Districts to submit their winner's information to Optimist International is April 15, 2015.

### Optimist International Oratorical Contest

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

**When:**

**Students:** The deadline to enter is determined by the sponsoring Optimist Club. All Club-level contests are typically held by late March.

**Clubs and Districts:** The District deadline to submit winners to Optimist International is June 15, 2015. Optimist International does not set Club/Zone/Regional deadlines.

### Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

**Topic:** "How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements of the Future"

**When:**

**Students:** The deadline to enter is determined by the sponsoring Club.

**Clubs and Districts:** The deadline for Clubs to submit their winner to the next level of competition is set by the District. District deadline to submit a winner to Optimist International is June 15, 2015.

## McIntosh County Optimist Club Donates TOYS to the Empty Stocking Fund



*Optimist Members in attendance, pictured left to right: (seated) Tommie Kappler, James Thomas, Blondella Banks, Jennifer Davis, Eunice Moore, Ella Ellison-Treasurer, Mandy Harrison-President, Patricia Whaley-Empty Stocking Fund Volunteer, Robert Hudley, Dr. Diane J Richardson-Lt. Governor, (seated) Elnora Butler-Vice-President*

The McIntosh County Optimist Club members decided instead of buying gifts for each other for Christmas, they would buy gifts for CHILDREN of McIntosh County! The McIntosh County Empty Stocking Fund has a yearly Toy Drive Campaign under the direction of Sandy McDonald and many community volunteers. During the Optimist meeting at B & J's Restaurant, the members gathered around all of the wonderful Toys and presented them, in the absence of Sandy McDonald, to Patricia Whaley, one of the volunteers of the Empty Stocking Fund.

## North Perimeter Optimist Club Partners with the Woodland Charter School

Last May the Woodland Charter School received a school grant from WeatherBug for \$1,200.00 and additional funding from The North Perimeter Optimist Club. The weather station is now up and running! Each and every school day the "Woodland Weather Report" is presented during the morning announcements and is sponsored by the North Perimeter Optimists.

The WeatherBug School Program is a unique combination of live weather data, dynamic graphics, and lesson plans that enable students to be introduced to concepts in the classroom in a very exciting and hands-on way.

The North Perimeter donation and subsequent sponsorship of the Weather Station program will be teaching thousands and thousands of students for many, many years to come!



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## Catch a Rising Star

### Note from the Governor-Elect

**L**ooking for the Right Leader at the Right Time!

*As we plan for the future, 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. We need committees and a District leadership team that promotes our love and dedication to the youth and the communities we live in.*

*Come see me at the next Conference at Lake Black Shear on February 20-22 in Cordele Georgia. I have set aside time to discuss the needs of the future and talk to those interested in participating on the committees of the realigned District.*

*I'm looking forward to the future and meeting all of you. "I Believe" with your passion, dedication, and involvement, 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*

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## Big John Ware— A Georgia Legend Has Passed

John L. Ware, of Conyers, also known as "Big John" to Georgia Optimists, passed away on Monday, November 24, 2014, at the age of 82. His funeral services were held on Saturday, November 29, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Ware, his daughters and sons-in-law, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Big John was a current member of the First Baptist Church of Conyers, where he enjoyed singing in the choir. He also sang with the Atlanta Peachtree Chorus Barber Shop Quartet.



Big John was a lifetime member of the South DeKalb Optimist Club, Past Vice-President of Optimist International in 1980-1981, and a Past Governor of the Georgia District, serving during the 1972-1973 administrative year. He was inducted into the Georgia District Hall of Fame in 1998-1999.

Big John Ware epitomized optimism in Georgia. There are many who will say that he was the greatest Optimist they have ever known. What a joy it was to call him a friend and learn from the example of leadership and dedication that he set for himself. Of course, Big John shared these gifts freely with all those around him, but he was careful to let his Optimist friends make their own way in this great organization. Being a powerful orator, he was frequently called upon to speak at Officer Installations, NOW Banquets, and Zone and District functions. We could always depend on Big John to warm our hearts and stir our souls, filling us with the determination to move on toward the greater achievements of the future. Big John was a Georgia Optimist who thought only of the best, worked only for the best, and expected only the best. He loved working with our children and would not stop until the needs were met.

Poor health kept Big John away from his Club and Georgia District activities during the last few years of his life. And although he has been taken from us, his legacy of optimism will continue through the "Big John Ware" Optimist of the Year Award. The greatest award in the Georgia District, the "Big John Ware Award," presented annually, recognizes excellence in Optimist service and leadership.

Friend, servant, leader, mentor. He meant so much to us. Big John Ware was a Georgia Optimist whose influence will never be forgotten.



# Bits ‘n Peaches

## Official Supplier for US and Caribbean Clubs



*As of October 1, 2014, Shumsky is the official supplier for all Clubs in the United States and the Caribbean. Shumsky provides a fresh perspective on how branded items, promotional products, and custom-developed ideas can be used to bring out the best in your Club needs. For details, visit Shumsky's new Optimist International supplier website or call (877) 678-2582.*



*Becky Jaquish wins Perfect attendance in Athens Tennessee!*

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## How to Strengthen our Organization

*By Abraham Walker*

Governor Russell Thomas has set the growth objective at plus 500; thus taking our current membership from 1700 to 2200. This committee has been mandated to come up with quarterly initiatives to keep growth at the forefront of our District agenda. Therefore, the following is suggested:

- Second Quarter Initiative: New Optimist Welcome Banquets
- Third Quarter Initiative: Friend of Optimists Drive District Wide
- Fourth Quarter Initiative: Maintenance & Retention of Existing Clubs

**To reach our goal:** Imagine the impact if each club in the Georgia District recruited 2 Friends of Optimists during the 2014-2015 administrative year. Friends of Optimists (FOO) do not have to reside in your club area, zone or community. For example: During the preceding year my local club brought in 12 new friends from all over these United States...like Chicago, Ill., Huntington Beach, CA., and Madison, WI.

Using the above strategy, each club has an opportunity to help the Georgia District grow by bringing in new friends of Optimists into their club. By reaching out to others outside our own neighborhoods, we increase our club's impact and reach twice as many kids.

**Secondly...**let's not forget current club members. They are valuable assets. Remember, principles for Maintenance and Retention are similar to those of "customer service" in a retail business. Let's give our existing club members the same care and attention as we would a member who may be at risk of dropping membership. Perhaps a personal phone call, by the member's original sponsor, would be the encouragement needed.

**Lastly...**The Membership Committee suggests that each club do at least one NOW Program for the new administrative year (2014-2015) and add one new member. Remember, adding "New Optimist Welcome" is the only 100% method of growth for our clubs.

### New Optimist Members mean:

- More children served;
- More communities have better resources to help kids and positively impact lives;
- More Optimists mean more ideas, more solutions and more helping hands.

## **NFL Atlanta Falcons Player Jonathan Scott Teams Up with The Optimist Club of Atlanta to Bring Holiday Cheer**

On Tuesday, December 16th, Atlanta Falcons Offensive Tackle, Jonathan Scott, The Optimist Club of Atlanta & William J. Scott Elementary School teamed up in this time of Holiday giving and cheer. Nine-year NFL veteran Jonathan Scott in partnership with The Optimist Club of Atlanta surprised 10 deserving students at Scott Elementary School in Atlanta identified through its Angel Tree Program.

“To be able to see the genuine smiles on the children's faces and light up when they received their gifts was the highlight of my day,” said Jonathan Scott. Jonathan also shared with students the importance of maximizing their potential. His own personal story of growing up in an inner-city school in Dallas, TX was an important connection that Scott Elementary School principal, Marshall Hunt, appreciated.

“On behalf of the Scott Elementary Ram parents,” explained Mr. Hunt, “I would like to extend a huge "Ramstastic" thank you to Jonathan Scott, The Optimist Club of Atlanta, and Springfield Baptist Church for their support of our students during this Holiday Season. Words cannot begin to describe the impact of this gesture and what it means to the families chosen. We will be eternally grateful for the gifts and labor of effort extended by all the organizations involved!”

The Optimist Club of Atlanta and its officers and members were also on hand to participate in the Angel Tree Program along with Jonathan. Harry Hackett, President of the Optimist Club of Atlanta stated, “it is our pleasure and mission of the organization to support and give back to the youth in our community. Partnering with Jonathan Scott was a real blessing to us and we look forward to exploring ways to continue our work for the youth of Atlanta.”

Jonathan joined the Atlanta Falcons this past October, but has already established his commitment to the Atlanta community and youth programs. He looks to extend his work with Scott Elementary through future programs to engage students inside and outside of the classroom.



# Bits ‘n Peaches

## JOOI News



**T**he JOOI kids are on the move! Denika Nickeo made history as the first JOOI Governor to make a formal training presentation to the Georgia District in a General Session at our First Quarter Conference at Chateau Elan. Her topic, “The Leadership Secrets of Santa Claus,” was both insightful and perfect for the large group of adults in attendance!



**B**e sure to check out the Hospitality cabin Friday night, February 20th at Lake Blackshear. Free Chili and Tater Soup to warm your belly after your long drive! BYOB...

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## JOOI At the Zoo



On Saturday, October 25, 2014, the JOOI kids from the Georgia District participated in their very first District project—“Boo at the Zoo.” Members from the 21 JOOI Clubs from all over the state were invited to participate.



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, our JOOI group helped wherever they were needed, by handing out candy at treat booths, assisting as costume characters, and participating as greeters at craft activities.

Never one to miss the fun, our Governor Russ Thomas joined the Georgia JOOI kids as they helped the Atlanta Zoo with this annual Halloween celebration. (By the way, Governor Russ is the one in the bow tie.)

Congratulations to our JOOI group for undertaking this new project!



## **Optimist International Leadership Summits – Professional Training Developing Strong and Optimistic Leaders**

Optimist International is proud to introduce its 2015 Leadership Summits. You are invited to join us for this exciting program developed for Optimist leaders, leaders of volunteer or charitable organizations, business owners, corporate managers, department heads, and front-line employees. This intense, one-day training experience will provide you with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead a relevant and thriving organization. Each summit will offer energetic and inspiring trainers that will provide training and skills building exercises designed to help each participant become a better leader and improve the operation of their business or organization. Optimists are encouraged to attend and invite non-Optimists from the business community to participate in this exceptional program. There are nine summits planned for the second and third quarters of this Optimist year in major cities, geographically located to accommodate a majority of Optimist members.

### **Topics Include:**

- Gung Ho
- Raving Customers
- Optimism as a Philosophy of Leadership
- The Servant Leader

- Leading and Implementing Change & Innovation
- The Five Levels of Leadership
- The Five Stages of Team
- Conflict Resolution
- The Five Levels of Business Attire
- Communication Styles

### **The dates and locations closest to us in the Georgia District are:**

March 7, 2015, Tampa, FL

March 21, 2015, Nashville, TN

March 28, 2015, Virginia Beach, VA

### **Registration:**

You may register by completing the appropriate registration form located on the [optimist.org](http://optimist.org) website. The registration fee for Optimists is only \$25 (including lunch). Registration for non-Optimists is \$50. Don't miss out on this exciting and valuable leadership opportunity!

For more information or answers to any questions you may have, please contact [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org) or call 800.500.8130.

## **The Right Information at the Right Time, Can Save a Life!**

The first few hours when a child is missing is the most critical for recovery!

During this very emotional and stressful time, parents scramble to provide police some of the most basic key information. Ken Shuey of the Carrollton Optimist Club is working hard to promote a District wide Child ID Program. He will introduce this at the second Optimist Conference at Lake BlackShear in Cordele GA on February 20 - 22. Visit his booth.



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## Guest Speaker for Lake Blackshear Conference



I was born in Cambodia, a few years before the horribly civil war there that resulted in the genocide of millions of Cambodians. I lost a brother and maternal grandmother during that time. I was taken away from my parents as were all children and placed in labor camps to work from dawn till dusk instead of attending school. My family escaped the Pol Pot regime and fled into Thailand's refugee camp where we stayed for over a year, and later in Indonesia for another six months before coming to America. We landed in Atlanta because a Jewish organization sponsored us and settled in west Georgia near Alabama because my parents found jobs there, working as custodians for a church. I grew up in that wonderful small close nit community. Although life in America was paradise compared to the horrors of Cambodia, as refugees my par-

ents and family encountered many problems, from language barriers to cultural changes and financial issues. I ended up in foster care. I did manage to graduate from high school as valedictorian and attended Emory University and finally Mercer Law School. After graduation I returned to my adopted hometown to work, first for the local judges, then for an established law firm and eventually opened my own law office. I tried hard to remember and appreciate what America has done for my family and tried to help the people in the community the best I could in my professional life. In turn, they supported me when I ran for judicial office as superior court judge. I ran against three other people in a contested election. When I won, I became the first Asian American superior court judge in the State of Georgia. I look forward to serving my community and the wonderful people that helped my family through the years. Thank God for our many blessings and for the greatest country when a refugee kid can have an opportunity to become a judge.

**At the close of the 2014-2015 Optimist year the  
Tennessee District and the Georgia District will be realigned.**



Both of these great Districts have a legacy and traditions that should be cherished and maintained as this new entity moves forward to the greater achievements of the future. As part of this realignment a contest has been launched to name our District.

Entry forms are available online at  
[www.georgiaoptimists.org](http://www.georgiaoptimists.org).  
Return your entries to  
Governor-Elect Tony Bell by  
April 30, 2015 or email to [bell1t@aol.com](mailto:bell1t@aol.com).

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# Bits ‘n Peaches

## Hello from your OI Foundation Rep!

I'm hoping that each of you had a wonderful holiday season!

The December holidays represent the season of giving! Let's keep this tradition going into the New Year. Giving to the Optimist International Foundation is one of our greatest gifts to the KIDS. Your funds help so many kids! You really have no idea how far the funds from the Dime-A-Day and other programs go--from helping with our scholarships to our grants.

At our upcoming conference at Lake Blackshear, your Club will have the opportunity to shine. It's time for the Presidents Walk for the Foundation! So Presidents, talk with your Club members, and get those Dime-A-Day commitments and your Club donations ready! Be sure to bring the donations from your Club to present to Governor Russ Thomas at lunch. I know that our Governor will be so proud to have all of our Clubs donating at the President's Walk! Your photo will also be made with the Governor as you present your donation—recording the event for you to use as publicity in your community and your Club. PLEASE make sure that all checks are made out to the Optimist International Foundation.

And did you know that you could WIN a Club Grant in the “2015 Reel Optimism Video Contest?” This competition is sponsored by the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. Clubs are encouraged to create a short video and upload it via the contest website to win a Club Grant. I'm going to bet that a lot of you didn't even know that the Foundation sponsors the Reel Video Contest. Please take advantage of this opportunity. The Georgia District had a finalist in this contest last year! Let's bring it home this YEAR!

Before I conclude, I want to be sure that I thank each one of you who donated to the Foundation at the last conference. Let's keep it up! Thank you for what you do for the KIDS in our Georgia District! I'm looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at Lake Blackshear!

Mrs. Joey H. Richardson  
Georgia District Optimist International  
Foundation Representative

## Clubs Can Make CASH \$\$\$\$.

**Sell ads for the District Newsletter and Your Club Gets 20% Commission**

### Size and Prices:

Our publication circulates four times a year (every quarter). We offer discounts for running in all four issues on Full Page, Half Page and Quarter Page. Please see below:

	1x	4x's
Full Page: 7-1/2" x 10"	\$100.00	10% - \$40.00 Discount Per Year
Half Page: 7-1/2" x 4-3/4"	75.00	5% - \$15.00 Discount Per Year
Quarter Page: 3-3/4" x 4-3/4"	50.00	3% - \$6.00 Per Year
Business Card: 3-1/2" x 2"	25.00	

### Specifications:

All material should be camera-ready and in PDF or jpeg format and should be at least 144 dpi resolution. Lower is acceptable, however we can not guarantee that it will be produced in the best quality. An ad can be designed by our graphic designer, Brenda Basey for \$75.00/hour. She can be reached at [bsbasey@comcast.net](mailto:bsbasey@comcast.net).

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*Any business, insurance, real estate, personal, etc. may advertise in our newsletter. However, all material will need to be approved by the marketing committee before it runs to ensure appropriate content.*

# Bits 'n Peaches

## It's An Encore Celebration!

The First Quarter was a blast! Come see what Governor Russ and his team have planned for the Second Quarter Conference at Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele, Georgia, February 20-22, 2015! There's going to be an award winning celebration as the Georgia District recognizes Past Governor Hal Sewell and his team's outstanding accomplishments for the 2013-2014 Optimist year. We will induct a new member of the Georgia District's Hall of Fame as well as celebrate the work of Governor Russ and the 2014-2015 team. Just look at some of the exciting events that have been planned for you!

- Official visit from Optimist International Vice President Deanna Morrow
- FISH!: a remarkable way to boost morale and improve results
- Motivational speakers that will demonstrate how optimism can change your life
- Leadership development (training on social media, Parliamentary procedures, developing Community Project Awards entries)
- Georgia Hall of Fame induction
- District Awards Program and Banquet
- An "Awards After Party"

It's going to be an Oscar style Award Winning event! Let's roll out the red carpet and celebrate our District's accomplishments!

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, February 13, 2015. Lake Blackshear Resort, rate is \$90.00, plus 11% Tax. Hotel telephone number is 1.800.459.1230. Hotel cut-off date is January 20, 2015. Be sure to indicate the Georgia District's group reservation #205672.



# Registration

## Georgia District Optimist International

Second Quarter District Conference, February 20-22, 2015  
Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club  
Cordele, Georgia 31015



Optimist's Name (on badge) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number - **21** - \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate by checking Yes if this is your first district meeting: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Zone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Club Office held for 2014-15 \_\_\_\_\_

District Office held for 2014-15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this section only if Spouse/Guest is being registered**

Spouse / Guest Name (on badge, if registered) \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name spouse / guest belongs if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Number - **21** - \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate by checking Yes if this is your first district meeting: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Zone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Club Office held for 2014-15 \_\_\_\_\_

District Office held for 2014-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Does your spouse / guest (Optimist) prefer attending: CHECK ONE: General Session: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse / Guest Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names & ages (if registered) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need babysitting? (Ages 4 and under) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

- ♦ **Registration for Members will include:** All meetings, coffee breaks, Saturday lunch, Saturday night banquet and Sunday breakfast.
- ♦ **Registration for Spouse or guest will include:** Saturday activity and lunch, Saturday night banquet and Sunday breakfast.
- ♦ **Registration for Children will include:** Saturday daytime activities and lunch, Saturday night meal and activity. All activities will be held at the hotel. Sunday breakfast ticket must be purchased separately (See below). Children's activity may be cancelled in event of low participation numbers. You will be notified in advance if this occurs.

### Registration Fees:

			Dietary Needs	
Optimist:	\$105.00 before 02/13/15	\$115.00 after 02/13/15 or on site	_____	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest	\$105.00 before 02/13/15	\$115.00 after 02/13/15 or on site	_____	\$ _____
Children	\$25.00 before 02/13/15 (ages 5 to 13)	\$35.00 on site # _____ at \$ _____	_____	\$ _____
One Day Registration (Includes meetings and coffee break only):	\$35.00			\$ _____

**Individual Tickets can be purchased for the following:**

Notice to Optimist: When purchasing individual tickets, the \$35 Daily Registration must be paid in addition to the ticket price for each day registered.

		Special Dietary Needs	
Saturday Lunch	_____ at \$23.00	_____	\$ _____
Spouse / Guest Activity	_____ at \$30.00	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Night Banquet	_____ at \$44.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunday Breakfast	_____ at \$22.00	_____	\$ _____
Children's Breakfast	_____ at \$15.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Total Enclosed:</b>			\$ _____

Make Checks Payable to "Georgia District Optimist International" and send with registration form to Marnie Copeland, 20 Mt. Moriah Dr., Senoia, Georgia 30276. Pre-registration **must be postmarked no later than Friday, February 13, 2015.** Cancellation, if necessary, must be made no later than Monday February 16, 2015. You may reach Marnie Copeland by email at [marnieco@charter.net](mailto:marnieco@charter.net) or by phone at (770) 599-4192. or C: (404) 232-9189 Make hotel accommodations directly with the hotel: Lake Blackshear Resort, 2459-H US Hwy. 280 West, Cordele, Ga 31015 – (800)459-1230 Group Reservation #205672 (Rate Per Night \$90.00 + 11% Tax) Hotel cut-off date is **January 27, 2015.** After January 27, 2015 room rate may increase and reservations will depend on availability. Be sure to indicate you are with the Georgia District Optimist .



# Bits 'n Pictures



**A Visit from the Governor!!!**  
We all know that our Governor Russ Thomas will visit as many Clubs as possible during the 2014-2015 Optimist year. But all of his visits cannot be accomplished in just a few short weeks. It seems the Kennesaw Club was anxious, so they improvised! We all know Governor Russ was there in spirit!



**Harrison JOII Club does Christmas!**




**Pope Octagon Club has gathered over 2,000 cans and boxes of food plus 13 grocery cards for turkeys for the Cobb Family Resource Center's Thanks-for-Giving Food Drive. Optimists helped in the effort by donating food, boxes and grocery cards.**



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

Editor: Deanna Morrow  
Design/Layout: Brenda Basey

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

