



MWO 2010 - 2011

MWO NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Volume 24, Issue 2

MWO Governor
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MID WESTERN ONTARIO DISTRICT NO. 46

Promise yourself, to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others...taken from the Optimist Creed.

The Governor's Report

I'd like to take a moment and say Thank You to all of the clubs that are sending me a copy of their club bulletin. I really enjoy reading about what is happening around the district. It is nice, as I am learning how successful your events and fund raisers are, as well as getting to know you a bit better.

We are off to a great start, with many clubs adding new members - some have already added more than enough for Honour Club status - wow!

This year many clubs can easily add the minimum of 20% and receive recognition for your dedication in strengthening your clubs and for ensuring that your clubs continue to serve the youth in your community.

Please continue to keep connected to your Lt Governors as they are a great resource that are there to help each of us to attain our goals. They are lively and fun, plus they are dedicated to the Optimists that they are leading this year. I would like to see each of them become as distinguished in the eyes of Optimist International, as they are in my own. Ask them how we can make that happen.

Please be sure to check out our District website www.optimistmwo.on.ca - I find it to be very informative and easy to use. Executive members please contact me if you are having any difficulty in accessing the password protected area of the site.

The upcoming Quarter Board will be packed with interesting workshops and forums. We will have Certified Trainers again, Sue Creswell and Jack Creswell - two for the price of one! Everyone who had the privilege of attending one of Sue's workshops last year knows that it is a real treat to have her back, and Jack is our Incoming International President, he is fun and informative - I am sure that this winning duo will provide us with action packed sessions.

We also have a number of other - equally exciting - visitors, helping out with workshops. Be sure to set aside February 5th - get registered and set your mind for an excellent Quarter Board!

See you there!
Optimist Catherine

Governor, Midwestern Ontario
Optimist District 2010 - 2011





FEBRUARY

**TRAINING &
INFORMATION
FORUMS AT SECOND
QUARTER BOARD**

10:30 am to 11:20 am

- President,
President-Elect &
Lt Governor
Forum
- Personal Growth
& Involvement
- Membership &
Retention
- Club Secretary &
Treasurer Forum

11:25 am to 12:15 pm

- Catch A Rising
Star (by
invitation only)
- Optimist
International
Foundation
- H.O.B.Y
- Internet Safety

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- Fun and
Fellowship



COMPUTERS FOR KIDS

Hello all;

This is my first opportunity to speak with you in 2011, so let me first begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

This is exciting news to start the New Year off with a bang. To date there has been \$12,080 donated to the program. This will allow the staff to purchase a total of 15 new computers. I have enclosed a picture of the package that the children receive, including the extra software, office 2007.

I want to share a story that David, from the Foundation, shared with me about the importance of this program.

"Once I told the Social workers we were back in business they pulled out a list of 5 or 6 kids that they had on hold hoping this would come back. Once we dig out I would expect the remaining 3 to be gone soon. And the 5 new ones, not far behind."

"The other day I had the opportunity to drop on a computer to an 11 year old that had just got word her platelets were down(not good) she was in tears and was not really interested in a gift at the time, so I left the computer with the social worker, later that day I got an email that the girl opened the backpack and within 5 minutes was chatting on line with her friends. One more time the Staff at the hospital appreciate this program as they saw a tough situation turn into a smile later on and there would not have been many other ways they could have done that for this young girl".

"Thanks for all you and your Optimist members do"

Hope you are all well and enjoyed your holidays, see you all in February.

Let's continue to Be Excited & Be Engaged, For the Children

Yours in Optimism,
Dennis W. Manarey
Midwestern Ontario
District chair 2010-2011
Computers for Kids program



OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself.....

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.

Optimist International®

MEMBERSHIP

Do you remember... the first Optimist club member that you met? Or the first Optimist meeting you attended? How about the first time you helped with a youth program?

I bet you are smiling just thinking about those firsts, I know that it puts a smile on my face when I think back to when I first joined.

How about sharing that experience?

As you know, being an Optimist club member provides many benefits – to our local youth that we serve and to ourselves. Helping serve the youth is a win win, no doubt about it. Bike and water safety, speaking, writing and spelling contests, JOOI club programs are all ways in which we help and encourage children to be the very best that they can be. At the same time, we are developing our abilities to plan, organize, speak in public, work within budgets and fundraise. Certainly the list of benefits that come from having an Optimist Club within a community and the list of benefits that come from being an Optimist are much greater than this.

I challenge every club member to bring a potential new member to your next club meeting. I challenge every club President to enlist a club Membership Chairperson. I challenge every Membership Chairperson to bring together a committee and organize a membership drive – outreach – N.O.W Meeting.

Membership is everyone’s responsibility, and it is a true asset that we can build up to ensure our clubs are strong and able to continue serving the youth.

In Optimism, Governor Catherine



“Life is to be enjoyed, not just endured.”

“In all living, have much fun and laughter.”



ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER?

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
6. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
7. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
8. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

Achievements & Awards

Be Excited...Be Engaged...& Be Awarded, Be Counted



Attention all CLUBS Have you filled in your Achievements and Awards Quarterly Report form? I want to remind you to bring it to the quarter board I'll be there to get your A&A report (if you are not able to attend, you can give it to your Lt Gov., and I'll get it from them on your behalf). *****Please provide documents of proof with your A&A Quarterly Report*****

The Achievements & Awards Program will be awarded in 10 categories - Club/Service/Child focused, Club service/community focused, Membership, New Community Build, J.O.O.I Optimist Youth Club, Communication, Club Financial Obligations, Optimist International Foundation, Personal Growth & Involvement, Be energized Be engaged.

So many ways to be awarded...take the time and fill in your Achievements and Awards Quarterly Report form and be "counted!"

Quarter Board is coming up...How many members are you bringing? 5 or more? How to get "**bonus points**" - remind your members when attending quarter board training sessions to sign in...be "counted!"

Are you planning a NOW meeting? Do you want "**bonus points**"?

- ❖ Invite Membership Chair to NOW meeting and earn 100 **extra points**
- ❖ Have 10 or more guests at your NOW meeting and your club earns double points
- ❖ Sign up at least 20% of your guests as new members - double your point score in this section.



Have you checked out the A&A Report...there's so many ways to get "**bonus points**" ...here are a few.

1. Submit club history form to District Historians Ken and Eleanor Saxton - first 25 forms submitted "**bonus points**"
2. Club article submitted to OI Magazine - 100 "**bonus points**" if printed
3. Article submitted to District Bulletin - 100 "**bonus points**" if printed (advertisements don't count)
4. Share events online at www.optimistmwo.on.ca - "**bonus points**" for postings that are unique and stand out, be creative!
5. Have you sent a personal greeting card to the District PGI chair - you can earn "**bonus points**" (you can double your points - hint 9.3).

What does Be Energized, Be Engaged mean...you might ask? Check out the 3rd page of the A&A Report...what your club can do for these?

Optimist International will provide a banner patch to the club that earns the highest points in the District. With clubs achieving the number one position for the first time OI will provide a banner strip and year flag for their club banner (subsequent years, winning clubs will receive a year flag only).

Thank you for completing your A & A report and handing it in... "**Be Awarded, Be Counted!**"

Your District A&A Chair
Optimist Cathy Hallman
Email: cmjhallman@hotmail.com
1159 Lancaster Street
London, ON N5V 2L4



**SPELLING
BEE
CONTEST**

The "Spelling Bee" updated list and rules will be on the Midwestern District Website the week of January 18, 2011.

The final District "Spelling Bee" will be April 30 at the University of Waterloo.

Mark Kerr
District Spelling Bee Chair



**NEW
CLUB
BUILDING**

We are ready to add members...are you? What tools or ideas do you need to add new members or to sponsor the build of a new club? Don't know the answers to these questions, then you need to come to the Membership Retention Seminar at Second Quarter Board...with Sue Creswell and your New Club Building Team!

Focusing on growth....securing the future...of OUR clubs and OUR District...

Contact us any time.
Thanks, Rick Zimak & Bill Adams

**O.I. FOUNDATION TAKES
THE PLUNG AGAIN!**

Hello Proud and Honoured MWO 2011 Executive;

On Saturday February 12th, the Alma Optimists will be hosting the MWO District Plunger plop tournament at the infamous Alma Dome. It is an event to be experienced at least once in a lifetime.

We would greatly appreciate you entering a team, or issuing a challenge to another club for plopping supremacy! The winning team will have all of the entry fees as well as any fines accrued at lunch donated to the OI Foundation in their clubs name.

The cost per team of 4 players is \$20 per team.

Please try to make it. The more teams entered the more fun.

Note: Do not confuse this event with the Alma Community Plunger Plop held Sat. Feb. 5th.

This is exclusively a MWO Optimist event.

Thanks..... George Dewys
MWO OI Foundation Chair
519-349-2808 gdeywys@quadro.net
Rob McKay Alma Optimist Club
519-848-3758



**Charter Party for
Historic Preston**



**THE OPTIMIST CLUBS
OF KITCHENER WEST
AND
KITCHENER
SOUTHWEST**

**Would like to introduce
the Newest Club in Zone 7
Please come and join the
Gala Celebration of the
Charter of
the Historic Preston
Optimist Club**

**Date: Saturday, February
12, 2011**

**Place: Cambridge Preston
Legion**

**334 Westminster Street
North**

Cambridge, ON

Time: Social at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

**Cost: \$25 for Dinner &
Dance**

Tickets available from:

- Past Governor Mark Kerr
- Past Governor Joe St. John
- Past Governor Bob McFadyen

**Donations and letters of
congratulations**

will be gratefully received.

Please send to Past
Governor Joe St. John
1135 Queens Blvd
Kitchener, ON N2M 1B9



Meet our Optimist International President



Danny Rodgers
Connect with Danny!

- ❖ Friend him on Facebook
- ❖ Call him at 817-714-7261
- ❖ Email him at jdr731@yahoo.com
- ❖ Watch him on YouTube (search OptimistArenaMan) - new videos are coming every week
- ❖ When he says he's accessible, he means it. He wants to hear from you!

From
The Optimist Fall 2010

ALL ABOARD FOR THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION 2010-2011 (CANADA)

I would like to thank all those individuals and clubs who have made a donation to the Foundation so far in our Optimist year. Through your generosity we have raised \$2730.00 to date.

If a club makes a donation of \$500.00 before or at the next Quarter Board Meeting at the Delta in Kitchener on February 5th, 2011, I will present your club representative with a print.
I will have dime-a-day- pins, prizes for draws and president club forms with me at that time.

Fundraising Events for the Foundation:

Feb 12/11 Annual Plunger Plop in Alma
Registration at 9:00 a.m.
Contact Optimist Rob McKay at heymckay@sympatico.ca
More information to follow

May 14/11 Plunger Plop / Mini Olympics at Downie Community Centre, St. Pauls
Contact Optimist George DeWys at gdewys@quadro.net

June 18/11 Annual Foundation Golf Tournament at Fox Golf Course
South of St. Marys on Hwy # 7/19
\$100. per person .4 per team
Driving Range open to enjoy
PRIZES.....STEAK DINNER.....LOTS OF FUN!!!!!!

Thanks for your co-operation,
George DeWys District Foundation Representative (Canada) 2010-11.
(519) 349-2808 or gdewys@quadro.net



The District extends our Sympathy to Terry and Ann Tosheff with the passing of Terry's mother. You are remembered in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

District Essay Contest & Internet safety

District Essay Contest update:

As you know this year topic is "How My Education is the Key To a successful Future". I am looking forward to seeing the essays come in.

I have answered lots of questions about the essay contest and have learned so much more about it.

Please send your club's winning Essay by February 28th, 2011. If your winner is chosen by 2nd Quarter Board meeting bring them and give them to me then.

Thank you.
Optimist Hazel Polhill
District Chair Person
Essay Contest



Did you know that 99% of teenagers use the **Internet**? On average kids between the ages of 8 and 18 use electronic media 6.5 hours a day? More than half of the teens online today have been asked for personal information and more than half say they have had private conversations with strangers. About 42% of youth today say they have posted personal information, 30% report they have talked with a cyber-stranger about meeting in person and 7% of 12-14 year olds have received an online request for a nude photo of themselves.

Continued next page.....



Burford Optimist President Ron Savard took it upon himself to Raise Money for Childhood Cancer research He dared every Optimist to contribute a Toonie. They did! And Optimist Ron went for a dip with the air temperature 3 degrees and balmy Lake Huron 6 degrees.

Midwestern Ontario Optimist Governor Catherine Herdman, just pulling him out of the Lake with a fluffy warm towel.

WHO'LL TAKE THE PLUNGE THIS QUARTER BOARD?

Jerry Marton
3-25 Edgeware Street South
St Thomas ON N5P 2H1
Phone: 519.280.0366
Email: merjermarton@aol.com





FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE HARBOUR

OFFICIAL DATES ARE JULY 3 – 5, 2011.

Convention Headquarters will be at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront that quite literally sits on the water's edge. Shopping and a huge assortment of restaurants are nearby, with the National Aquarium and the Maryland Science Center just a few blocks away.

Need more information visit www.optimist.org/convention.

START PLANNING!

Answers for page 4:

1. boxing
2. Niagara Falls
3. Asparagus & rhubarb
4. Strawberry
5. Dwarf, dwindle, dwell
6. period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
7. Lettuce
8. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

BULLETIN EDITOR NOTES

Your District Bulletin Editor brings you greetings. The results are in for the Newsletter Competition and the winners will be named at the Awards Banquet February 5.

Please encourage your clubs to enter their Club newsletters at the District level. There are some great newsletters as I have noticed over the past year. To those clubs who have sent in newsletters - keep up the great work. Don't just send in newsletter once in awhile....send them monthly so they will be eligible for the competition. When submitting your newsletter please include your Club name in the subject line. The criteria for the newsletter judging can be found on the OptimistMWO web site.

Thank you to those who sent in reports for the District Newsletter, there are still a few more that could be sent in as well as a few pictures.

As always if you have something you want in the District Newsletter please forward it to me at zurbrigg@quadro.net. In the subject line include "for MWO Newsletter".

Deadline for next newsletter issue is May 5, 2011. (or before!)

District Bulletin Editor
Jennifer Zurbrigg
zurbrigg@quadro.net



....Internet Safety

These shocking statistics plus many more about cyber bullying and the lack of parental monitoring has led to the creation of the Optimist International iKeepSafe Internet Safety Program.

The program is aimed at young children and at adults via CD's and printed materials suitable for presenting to groups, schools and to your club. The District has obtained a laptop computer, speakers and projector, which is available for your club to assist in bringing these important educational materials to our community.

Every club is entitled to receive one free Internet Safety Kit from Optimist International. Additional kits can be purchased for \$2. As well, District Internet Safety Chair, Jane Antoniak is here to assist you in making a presentation or obtaining materials.

Please contact Optimist Jane via e-mail at je.antoniak@sympatico.ca. She resides in London and is the past president of the Optimist Club of Middlesex London. She can assist you in using the District laptop, speakers and projector for these presentations.

Let's all work together to keep kids safe, wherever they are!

Internet Safety Chair
Jane Antoniak
108 Hillsmount Crescent
London ON N6K 1V5
Phone: 519.471.1135
Email: je.antoniak@sympatico.ca